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International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission hires new director.
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'Women of the year'
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Good sportswomanship
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see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

City receives slight increase in CARE money

by Matthew S. Bajko

Expecting to take another hit in federal funding for AIDS services, San Francisco officials instead were surprised last week to see they had received a slight increase in Ryan White CARE Act funds for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Last year, the HIV Health Services Planning Council, known as the CARE Council, saw a \$2.2 million cut in funding for AIDS services in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties, and enacted a 6 percent reduction in services to absorb the loss. While many council members and AIDS agency officials had feared they would face another round of cuts, the council learned Thursday, March 20 that it would receive roughly \$33.9 million, an increase of nearly \$380,000 over last year's award of roughly \$33.5 million. The extra money came in the council's supplemental funding award.

"We were totally not expecting it and we are very happy in receiving it," remarked Catherine Geanuracos, co-chair of the CARE Council, during its monthly meeting Monday, March 24.

In total, the federal government awarded 51 grants totaling \$600 million to cities hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The grants help these cities provide primary care and supportive services for low-income residents with HIV/AIDS.

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LGBTs against war take to the streets

by Zak Szymanski

For weeks, antiwar protesters vowed to shut down San Francisco on the day after bombing began in Iraq. Still, when the mass demonstration – made up of clusters of like-minded groups spread throughout the city – came to fruition last week, city residents, commuters, and officials were ill prepared, and the coordinated effort to block key intersections lasted from just after dawn on Thursday, March 20, through 1:30 a.m. the next day.

LGBT people actively took part in the protests throughout the weekend, whether in queer-specific groups or as part of other politically active alliances. Many demonstrators took pay cuts or time off from their full-time jobs to participate. Many others – approximately 2,400 people in all – spent a good portion of the weekend in jail.

Downtown uprising

While most people braced for traffic woes in and around the Financial District, several groups began blocking streets above the Civic Center with their bodies and nearby dumpsters on Thursday before 7 a.m.

A mobile protest unit of about 50 people, mostly queer, assisted these smaller clusters of protesters, who would call when they needed help.



Activists block traffic at Broadway and Battery streets in downtown San Francisco last Thursday.

Rick Gerharter

Chanting "War ain't fierce, Mary," and "The war stops here and so do you," to the trapped motorists, the group successfully helped other protest groups take over intersections off of Market Street near Gough, where police summoned empty Muni buses to stash arrestees. Chants soon became more playful, complete with choreography and a chorus; "U-G-L-Y, Bush ain't got no alibi, he's ugly," and "Get back, Get back, Get your ass out of Iraq" were among the showstoppers.

Parents walking their children to school stopped to applaud. Apartment dwellers

from above stood waving peace flags out their windows. Drivers of trapped cars honked their horns both in support and frustration, but either way drew a boisterous response from the crowd.

The mobile unit then marched to Van Ness and Mission in time for rush hour and blocked all incoming and outgoing roadways, playing an impromptu game of soccer with a stars-and-stripes themed ball. The mass at this point had been joined by many other protesters, some of whom had been coming

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Queers cheer freeway's demise

by Matthew S. Bajko

Starting this weekend, a decade-long dream to turn the city's Central Expressway into a tree-lined, pedestrian-friendly boulevard will begin to take shape. On Saturday evening, March 29,

Caltrans will permanently close the full Streetcar ramp from Highway 101 and demolish or relocate the structure will begin.

To celebrate the end of years of battle between proponents of the plan and those who fought to save the freeway, a local queer community group is hosting a de-

molition party Sunday, March 30 in the afternoon. And it's not just Hayes Valley residents who will be on hand to cheer what they see as a bright on this neighborhood.

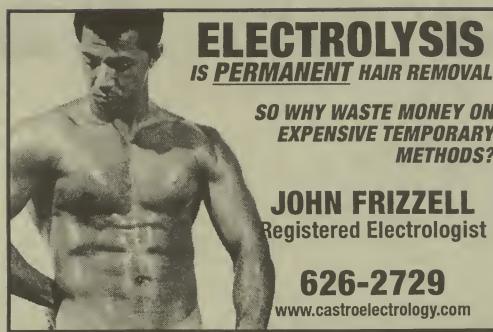
Set to open from the new boulevard

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Jane Philomena Ueland

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Koretz introduces anti-N-9 resolution

by Ed Walsh

The campaign against condoms and lubricants containing the spermicide nonoxynol-9 is getting a boost from a state lawmaker.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) has introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 16 urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ban the products. AJR16 is joint-authored by San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno (D) and is co-authored by six other state legislators.

Although it was once theorized that N-9 would reduce the risk of HIV transmission, later studies have shown just the opposite effect. N-9 has been shown to significantly increase HIV risk because it strips away the protective epithelial cells that line the anus and vagina.

"America's three largest condom brands, Trojan, Lifestyles, and Durex, have refused to remove nonoxynol-9 from their products despite scientific evidence that N-9 increases the risk of HIV and other infections," said Koretz. "To protect public health, I urge the FDA to ban the sale of condoms and sexual lubricants with the additive N-9. I also call on manufacturers to stop producing N-9 condoms and ask retailers

to stop selling these harmful products."

The Oakland-based Mayer Laboratories, the number four condom maker, pledged last fall to remove N-9 from its lubricant and condom brands which include Maxx, Kimono, and Aqua Lube.

AJR16 calls for the preservation of N-9 as an active ingredient in contraceptive creams, gels, and foams as a contraceptive option for women at low risk for HIV until a safer spermicide is developed. There is no evidence that N-9 offers any contraceptive benefit when added to condoms and lube.

AJR16 is sponsored by the Southern California HIV/AIDS Advocacy Coalition, a group of AIDS service providers and HIV-positive individuals who advocate for sound HIV public policy.

"HIV prevention is difficult work that requires a simple, consistent message to have maximum impact. Removing N-9 condoms from the marketplace will reduce confusion among condom users and will reduce the risk of HIV transmission that is associated with N-9," said Tom Peterson, co-chair of SCHAC.

Koretz's aide, Bart Broome, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that AJR16 has not received any formal opposition but that Church & Dwight, the makers of Arm & Hammer products and Trojan condoms, has "taken interest" in

the resolution and is being represented by a law firm. Broome said he is hopeful the measure will receive the full support of health care advocates and the LGBT community.

The resolution will likely go to the Assembly Health Committee before being put to the full Assembly for a vote. If passed in the Assembly, it will then proceed to a Senate committee before going before the full Senate for a vote. Broome noted that the governor's signature is not necessary for Assembly joint resolutions.

After a series of reports in the B.A.R. last fall, the three manufacturers still producing N-9 lube voluntarily agreed to discontinue making the products. An FDA ban of N-9 lube would mean that stores could no longer sell existing stock of the product and it would prevent manufacturers from reintroducing N-9 lube.

Activists have been critical of the FDA for being asleep at the switch for not banning N-9 condoms and lube. When the FDA was asked by the B.A.R. why it allows the products on the market when they have not proven to be safe or effective, a spokeswoman said that she couldn't answer the question. Condom manufacturers could not provide the B.A.R. with any evidence that adding N-9 to condoms provides any consumer benefit. ▼

Falcon Studios head resigns

by Cynthia Laird

iting a need to step back and reevaluate priorities in his life, John Rutherford, president of Falcon Studios and the Falcon family of companies, announced earlier this month that he will resign effective April 4.

Rutherford, 39, had assumed the position of president of Falcon Studios after the death of founder Charles "Chuck" Holmes in September 2000. Prior to that, Rutherford had been the creative force in the production department, having been mentored by Holmes for 12 years.

"This decision is strictly for me," Rutherford said in a statement released by the company. "It has nothing to do with the business or my place within the adult film community. I want to take some time to think, travel, and explore lots of options open to me for the future."

Terry Mahaffey, vice president of Falcon, will be handling the administrative duties of the company until a decision is reached on Rutherford's replacement. Mahaffey stated that the company will continue the high standard of quality and excellence that both Holmes and Rutherford set in place over the years.

"The Falcon family of companies is a team effort, and I have every confidence that the department heads and their staff will continue in the Falcon tradition," Mahaffey added.

Terry Bean, CEO and trustee of the Charles M. Holmes Trust, accepted Rutherford's resignation with regret.

"John has been faithful in maintaining the quality of product as well as Chuck's long term vision for the company. His insights, business experience, and vision will be sorely missed," Bean stated.

During his tenure, Rutherford directed some of the most acclaimed gay adult movies and discovered leading porn stars like Matthew Rush, Ken Ryker, and Jeremy Penn. According to an article on Gay.com, Rutherford's creative largesse helped place Falcon Studios at the top of the gay adult film industry. He recently released the vintage film, *The Other Side of Aspen 1*, which was named best classic gay DVD at the 2002 Gay VN Awards, the Academy Awards of gay porn.

Falcon spokesman Chuck Ross noted that while financial specifics such as annual revenue and total video and DVD sales were proprietary, Rutherford did help expand the business, including solidifying a stronger Internet presence at www.Falconstudios.com.

"The company has expanded since he took over. Things have been growing and getting larger," Ross said.

"Falcon sex is the cream of the crop, and it's done with morals," Rutherford told the *San Francisco Chronicle* last year. "We don't do anything that would induce unsafe sex, drug use, or even cigarette



John Rutherford

smoking."

Under Holmes, Falcon positioned itself as a philanthropic entity to give back to the LGBT community. A not-for-profit business, Falcon is tied to the Charles M. Holmes Foundation, and funnels all post-expense profits into charitable organizations, including 20 HIV/AIDS outreach programs, the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and even the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

Last year the foundation donated \$1 million to the LGBT Community Center, which is formally known as the Charles M. Holmes Campus of the Center. The gift from Holmes's estate was the largest single-contributor donation to the center.

Rutherford said that he is looking forward to taking some time off. "I came to Falcon 14 years ago directly out of college, and this life is pretty much all I know." ▼

Sodomy case in court

by Bob Roehr

The room seemed strangely void of tension, the give-and-take of arguments almost flat, as if the decision already had been reached, when *Lawrence v. Texas* came before the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 26.

The court was not yet of one mind on the constitutionality of the Texas homosexual conduct law, still, it seemed that only Justice Antonin Scalia on the far right actively defended it, while most of the other justices were looking for arguments to throw it out.

Paul M. Smith, an openly gay attorney who heads up the appellate section of Jenner & Block, a leading Washington, D.C. law firm, made the case against the law. He said there was "a right for everyone to decide for themselves" what to do in the privacy of their own bedroom. And that the state required a compelling reason to regulate the activity of one group of citizens but not another.

As is their tradition, the justices began pepperering him with questions almost immediately.

Justice John Paul Stevens said the issue of substantive due process through the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution was "deeply rooted" in law. But not all activity banned by law - he used the example of flagpole sitting - reaches a level of constitutional protection. He asked why this case did reach that level.

The leading question gave Smith the opportunity to expound on how sexual intimacy with a partner is fundamental to the daily lives of people, a fact that the court had expanded over the years through a series of decisions dealing with contraception, abortion, and similar matters.

While these cases were within the context of marriage, it was illogical to assume that non-married people had no similar rights. Smith called this lack of precedent "a jagged piece missing" in the case law of the court.

Scalia tried to downplay the significance of sodomy laws by citing its "lack of enforcement ... it is not the type of thing that police are out looking for." He raised the issue of rape laws as sometimes being specific to one sex, and adultery and polygamy laws.

Smith responded that the state would have to justify the singling out of a certain group in order for the law to be constitutional. As for polygamy, the state creates mar-



Lambda attorney Ruth Harlow and attorney Paul Smith.

riage "for its own purposes" and can enforce that contract which is freely entered into. Criminal laws, such as the sodomy statute, are quite different and require a higher level of justification.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked about the request to overturn the infamous *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision of 1986 that denied a right to sodomy.

Smith said that *Bowers* posed the legal question too narrowly, it grossly distorted the factual history of sodomy laws, and it was based upon false assumptions of the reality of gay lives. Today, there are gay families that function within much the same context as that of marriage.

Charles Rosenthal, arguing for the state of Texas, said there was "no right to engage in extramarital conduct," and thus the state legislature was the proper place to decide the validity of a sodomy law. The *Bowers* decision "is still good law," he said.

Scalia offered that there is a difference between an unwillingness to prosecute sodomy cases and embracing that conduct as a right.

But Justice Stephen Breyer said that was the wrong question. It is the right of the people to do what they want to do, absent a compelling state reason to proscribe such activity. Even if sodomy laws are not often enforced, people fear that they might be. "I'd like to hear your straight answer to these points," he said, generating laughs across the courtroom.

Rosenthal rambled on about on how the law was meant to "preserve marriage and the family," and Texas has the right to set moral standards.

But Breyer could see no rational basis for the distinction that

the state had drawn between heterosexuals and homosexuals engaging in the same acts.

Justice David Souter asked why the state did not prosecute similar heterosexual conduct.

Rosenthal said, "It can lead to marriage and procreation."

Later, on the front plaza of the court building, attorney Ruth Harlow told reporters that Rosenthal was "grasping at straws."

Harlow is the lead attorney on the case and legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which handled the appeal to the Supreme Court.

"States can't come in and regulate only one group of people, that's not a rational basis," said Smith. "They need to point to something else to rationalize discrimination." ▼

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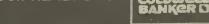
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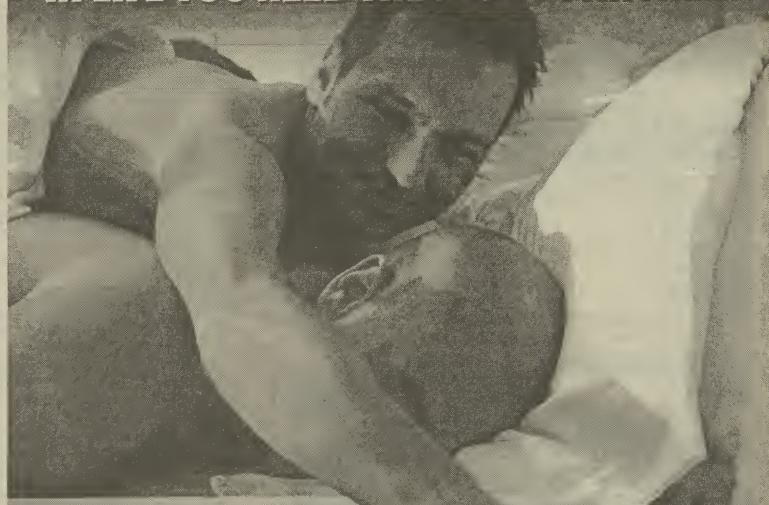
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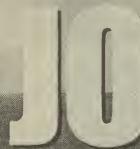
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Stopped cold

by Jane Warner

Fronting Papa's Market, 17th and Church, March 24, 1:33

p.m.: An ice cream vendor pushing his cart in front of the small corner grocery store was suddenly jumped from behind by two men, one of whom was wielding a knife. One of the suspects held the vendor's hands behind his back as the other suspect held the knife to his throat. "Give me your money," said one of the assailants in Spanish. The vendor struggled with his assailants as several witnesses sitting outside the Morning Dew coffee shop across the street started to yell at the suspects to let him go. During the struggle, the vendor was cut by the knife on the back of his neck. Seeing the many witnesses coming to the vendor's aid, the suspects fled on foot southbound on Church Street. One witness who was on a

bicycle followed the suspects to Dolores Park and notified police of their whereabouts. The two suspects were quickly apprehended by officers near the park's foot bridge. The suspected armed robbers – ages 28 and 31 – were taken to Mission Station and booked for conspiracy, aggravated assault, and attempted armed robbery. The ice cream vendor refused medical treatment at the scene.

Pick and choose

U.S. Bank, 443 Castro, March 20, 1:36

p.m.: A man walked up to a teller and without saying anything, handed her a note that read, "This is a robbery. Give me all the unmarked bills. I have a gun." Although the suspect did not brandish a gun, the teller could see the butt of a revolver sticking out of his pocket. The bank robber then placed a black shoulder bag on the counter in front of her. Fearing for her life, the teller began to place money into the bag. "No,

not that money," the suspect said. "Give me the other money." When the suspect left with an undisclosed sum, the teller set off the silent alarm. Another employee watched as the thief – described as African American, 20-30 years old, 6 feet tall with a thin build, wearing a red and gray beanie, gray hooded sweatshirt, and blue jeans – walked northbound on Castro toward Market Street. Responding police were unable to find him.

Pay cut

Louie's Barber Shop, 422 Castro, March 24, 9:54 a.m.:

When the owner of the barber shop arrived for work in the morning, he discovered the cash register on the floor. The drawer to the register had been forced open and \$500 was missing. Upon further investigation, the owner found a window in the back of the shop propped open with a metal bar, and the security bars pried open, away from the exterior of the building. Although there are no known suspects, responding police arranged for crime scene investigators to dust for prints. ▼



Ex-chief runs for mayor

by Joe Dignan

Former San Francisco Police Chief Tony Ribera held his mayoral kickoff first thing on Saturday morning, March 22, when about 75 friends and supporters joined him in his storefront campaign headquarters in the outer Mission for coffee, donuts, and dink sum.

Ribera, like the four major mayoral candidates who have announced to date – former Supervisor Angela Alioto, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Treasurer Susan Leal, and Supervisor Gavin Newsom – pledged to reform city government.

Ribera, 58, who has not run for elected office before, said, "I'm for real change, integrity, and sound management – and eliminating machine politics."

"Amen," responded the crowd, some of whom are fellow parishioners of Ribera's at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in the Sunset.

Targeting front-runner Newsom, Ribera also shunned what he called the superficial values of other candidates. "I won't spend all day at the beauty parlor," said Ribera.

Ribera, true to his word, with a buzz-cut reminiscent of his Army service in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968 and dressed in a frayed sport jacket, stained blue polo shirt, and black loafers, led about 20 of his supporters on a walk through the Mission where he ducked into bars and restaurants and started asking for support, the hard way, on time.

"Hi, I'm Tony Ribera. I'm running for mayor. I hope you'll give me some consideration," he said to each of the patrons at Al's Cafe on Mission.

Back on the street, a Ribera supporter shouted through the bullhorn, "Viva Tony, Ribera para el calde de San Francisco," as the tiny procession made its way down the Mission Street sidewalks into the heart of Ammiano country, where Ribera had walked a beat as an up and coming police-man in the 1970s.

While Ribera said that he isn't going to concede any neighborhood at this early stage, Harvey



Candidate Tony Ribera

Harlowe Hukari, Ribera's campaign consultant, said that he expects Ribera's main support to come from west of Twin Peaks: West Portal, the Richmond, and the Sunset, where Ribera has lived since 1974.

Mike DeNunzio, chair of San Francisco's Republican Party, came to the kickoff and said that the party will not be making any formal endorsements until August. But for himself he said, "Personally, there's a Republican in the race and he has my support."

The party's openly gay secretary, Chris Bowman, also at the rally, said that he is confident of Ribera's record on gay rights. According to Bowman, Ribera worked to improve community relations after the White Night riots while he was a cop stationed in the Mission. Bowman also credits Ribera with early opposition – in 1993 – to President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy when, after being invited by former Oakland Congressman Ron Dellums (D), he testified before the House Armed Services Committee and said that having gay cops in the SFPD – which Bowman said amounts to a para-military force – had no negative effect on morale.

Ribera said that 40 percent of the people in San Francisco weren't in the city when he was chief of police, and vowed that by the end of the campaign everyone will know his name.

Those who were in the city, however, will probably remember him mainly as Frank Jordan's chief who faced the last big scandal in the Police Department when a former SFPD public information officer, Joanne Welsh, charged Ribera with sexual harassment and sued the city for as much as \$2.8 million.

A federal jury ultimately exonerated Ribera of the sexual harassment charges in 1995, and, doubting Welsh's credibility, said there wasn't adequate evidence to substantiate her claims. The jury awarded Welsh about \$57,000 for harassment and discrimination claims because she was transferred from her job and because the city had delayed and withheld her pay while she was on stress-related disability leave in 1993.

After 28 years, Ribera retired from the police force in January 1996 on a pension of about \$97,000.

Since then, Ribera has gone back to school, earning a doctorate in public administration at Golden Gate University, which he counts among his biggest accomplishments – along with reducing San Francisco's crime rate by 30 percent while he was chief. Ribera now teaches at the University of San Francisco, where he started a criminal justice institute.

Ribera's brother and campaign finance chair, Gil Ribera, said the campaign has raised \$100,000 to date, mainly from family and friends.

"We're the poor side of the election," Gil Ribera said. But brother Tony said he lunched recently with gay campaign guru Jack Davis who helped get Jordan elected. Ribera said Davis told him he'd need to raise \$1 million to win. Ribera said he's looking at getting \$600,000 of that in the city, and another \$400,000 elsewhere.

Like all of the major candidates who have announced to date, Ribera pledged to run from the middle, and said he will appeal to "voters who want change." He's running as a reform candidate, appealing to "people who say we don't want a politician as a mayor anymore," he said. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gender protections bill clears Assembly committee

by Zak Szymanski

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) successfully pushed AB196 — which codifies protections in the Fair Employment and Housing Act against discrimination on the basis of gender — through the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee on Wednesday March 19 with a vote of 6-1-1.

The no vote and the abstention came from Assemblymembers Guy Houston (R-Walnut Creek) and Shirley Horton (R-San Diego), respectively.

AB196 protects people from discrimination on the basis of their real or perceived gender identity in the areas of housing and employment. During the committee hearing, Leno cited reports from the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and several other studies that have documented widespread discrimination against transgen-

der people; even in progressive San Francisco, “the unemployment rate for transgender people is 70 percent,” according to Leno.

But the bill is not limited to transgenders, as much of the discrimination targeted toward those perceived to be gay or lesbian, for instance, is also based on gender presentation. And employers hoping for certain characteristics in their workers often base these expectations on gender ideals, regardless of sexual orientation.

“Certainly a man who is perceived to be too feminine,” said Leno’s aide Nathan Purkiss, “can also be the victim of discrimination and would benefit from this legal protection.”

Gender-based discrimination is already prohibited in schools and is a part of sexual harassment and hate crimes law. But while Leno’s bill seeks to add gender to the FEHA, such discrimination cases are already being investigated as sex-related discrimination, according to Purkiss.

“The [FEHA] department is

already doing this,” said Purkiss, adding that because such cases already exist, the financial impact of the bill will be minimal. “But the law is necessary because the public doesn’t know that the department is already doing this. Property owners and employers may be unaware that they can’t discriminate on this basis, and victims might not know that they have recourse.”

AB196 is Leno’s re-introduction of last year’s AB1649, by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles). Goldberg’s bill died in the Senate before it was heard.

Within the next couple of months, AB196 will head for the Appropriations Committee, where it is expected to pass due to its low cost. In general, said Leno’s office, the bill has a lot more support this time around, including key endorsements by more than 50 employment and housing groups, from the California Labor Federation and the Golden Gate Business Association to the California Apartment Association and the San Francisco Tenants Union.

“Every Californian deserves the right to a job and to a home,” said Leno. “We must do everything in our power to protect such fundamental rights.” ▶

Help hate crime victims next Thursday

by Zak Szymanski

People do not expect to be attacked in their own space, but that’s exactly what happened to two women during the seventh annual San Francisco Drag King contest at SOMA’s Studio ZTV (formerly the Transmission Theatre) last August.

Witnesses reported to police that suspect Jack Broughton of Walnut Creek, and his accomplice Jean Earl, willfully and brutally attacked patrons of the bar in an alleged premeditated homophobic and racist beating. Broughton, charged with a felony hate crime,

will appear for his preliminary hearing on Thursday, April 3, at 9 a.m. in the Hall of Justice at 850 Bryant Street, Department 20. In order to help ensure that Broughton is tried on the charges, friends of the victims are asking people to show up in court and make a community presence known.

Broughton and Earl have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

On August 22, 2002, according to a public account posted online by Prado Gomez, a member of the Other Brothers performance group, “an unruly, straight, white couple were being removed from

page 23 ▶

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already doing this,” said Purkiss, adding that because such cases already exist, the financial impact of the bill will be minimal. “But the law is necessary because the public doesn’t know that the department is already doing this. Property owners and employers may be unaware that they can’t discriminate on this basis, and victims might not know that they have recourse.”

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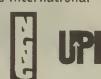
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War, protesters, & the media

San Francisco has a long tradition of liberal political activism, and no one should be surprised that that activism was on full display last week immediately after the start of the U.S.-led war on Iraq. Downtown streets were blocked and many people were inconvenienced. City officials have estimated that the protests – which formally started last Thursday and haven't really stopped but have steadily involved far fewer people – are costing close to \$1 million per day; not helpful when one considers the huge budget deficit the city faces. More than 2,000 people have been arrested, although it appears none will face charges as the district attorney's office has decided not to prosecute anyone.

After several days of acts of civil disobedience, however, it was heartening to see antiwar activists take a different tact to convey their message to the public. On Wednesday morning, people were passing out leaflets throughout the downtown area in an effort to gain support and to refine their message. It was overdone.

One of the things that has been missing from the protests here is vocal support for the troops serving overseas. In the week since the war started, we already have seen U.S. soldiers killed and others captured by Iraqi forces. Polls have shown consistently strong – but not unanimous – support for the Bush administration, as the country "rallies 'round the flag," a typical reaction to the start of war. Television images of demonstrators in other cities have shown protesters voicing support for the troops, and it seems that the folks over at Direct Action to Stop the War made their public statement this week. "We believe that to support our troops means not having them fight an unjust and unnecessary war," the group's statement reads. "Supporting our troops means bringing them home alive."

Direct Action to Stop the War notes that many people associated with the antiwar movement have tried traditional avenues of influence to stop the war. "We lobbied our politicians. We marched in permitted rallies millions strong. We signed petitions, prayed, and held vigils for peace. We broadcast pleas from the Iraqi people to stave off war against them and their families. Yet these pleas fell on a deaf administration. While our efforts delayed this war, they did not stop it."

The group acknowledged the disruptions of last week, but stated that was the point. "We sought to 'unplug' the Financial District in order to disrupt the financial foundation

of this war," DASW stated, pointing out that companies such as Bechtel, Citigroup, Carlyle Group and Chevron/Texaco stand to benefit financially from the war and its aftermath. "Many of these same corporations led a successful drive last year to reduce all business taxes, including their own, in the city of San Francisco – dramatically increasing San Francisco's budget crisis."

But the financial aspect of the protests – that they're costing the city so much money – cuts both ways. The city seems unable to adjust quickly to the ebb and flow of the demonstrations, and the overtime pay that flows to city workers as a result. Tuesday's *San Francisco Chronicle* featured a five-column photograph of eight police officers playing touch football while they waited as reinforcements for protests. How much did that game cost?

And many of the demonstrations have been peaceful without arrests. The LGBT-oriented rally and short march last Friday was a prime example. The event was led by seasoned queer members of the peace movement, who successfully discussed the impromptu event with police and negotiated a route. Hundreds of people attended, but there weren't any reported problems and even the police described it as a "piece of cake."

Voicing support for military personnel serving in the Persian Gulf and holding peaceful rallies are two important ways that the antiwar movement can gain support. A next step should be trying to get some articulate activists on television – we've heard with the retired military generals pouring over maps and discussing their ideas of dream battle plans on cable TV. Where are the voices of opposition? Shown sporadically before the war started, there's a virtual absence of such voices on the airwaves now. In the interest of balance, the television networks should cede some time to the other side of the story. As *Chronicle* television critic Tim Goodman noted this week, "Where American TV news falls down, without question, is the almost complete lack of antiwar voices or in-studio experts." With paid military advisers dominating maps and thrilling anchors with their battle analysis, there's apparently no room for dissent."

Members of the Bush administration have been gunning to oust Saddam Hussein ever since the first President Bush left office. In a country that was founded on freedom of speech and the right to assemble peacefully, the public deserves to hear legitimate questions and concerns posed by the antiwar movement. ▼

Editorial



I want the names of the soldiers on the battlefield

by Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon

I want the names of all the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender soldiers on the battlefield. Please send them to me. But only their first names. We do not want to put them in harm's way any more than they already are.

Send me their names.

We will light a candle for each with their name inscribed on it in solidarity. Just so they will know that they are not alone and not forgotten. They cannot phone their loved ones openly or send e-mails replete with the romance enhanced by separation. In the late night hours of waiting, they cannot engage in "family" talk with their comrades. But we will say their names aloud and be visible as their "family." That is what being a community is all about. Standing in solidarity with each other. In the good times and in the difficult times.

It must be so difficult to put your life on the line when you cannot bring your whole life to the line.

In times of war, the propensity to put people into categories is greater than ever. The "we/they" rhetoric fuels war machinations. We in the gay community are used to being categorized as the "they," that we are nearly immune to the damage this lan-

guage continues to do. But, what if the LGBT community refused the construct of categories "we" and "they"? Some monumental shift might occur.

For instance, it would not be a contradiction to honor a soldier who puts their life on the line in war, and also to honor one who protests the war, also putting their life on the line. For those of us who pray, it would be natural to pray for all lives affected so dramatically by this war – those who fight for us and those who protest the fighting as well.

What else might happen if we truly became "we"? Just one "we"? We would not let one person represent a whole group of people. We would take small actions that may seem insignificant to others, and yet believe that somehow in the universe these actions make a difference.

Some from the MCC spiritual community took a small action on Sunday by becoming honorary members of the local mosque. A step forward in solidarity, in refusing the we/they dichotomy.

The images of war are devastating. When we see a picture of POWs or of children, we snap out of the virtual war mindset and its video-game soundtrack. We snap into our oneness with humanity and realize that

when one human suffers, we all suffer.

Recently released results of a survey conducted by the Pew Institute indicated that only 17 percent said their religion or their faith had any effect at all on their view of the war. I wonder if being queer affects our view of the war. I hope so. We have been given, like Harper in *Angels in America*, an astonishing ability to see. I want us to see it all. I want us as queer people to see everything.

Adrienne Rich expresses my despair and my hope: My heart is moved by all I cannot save: So much has been destroyed I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.

I have cast my lot in with the queers, those who believe there is another way and those who seek to honor all of life in the midst of it.

So, send me their names. ▼

Guest Opinion

Please send the first names of soldiers to: soldiersnames@mccsf.org. The Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon is senior pastor at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco. For more information about MCCSF visit www.mccsf.org.

LETTERS

The blow back

The Bush junta's aggressive, preemptive war against Iraq is actually threatening World War III.

At least five separate conflicts could be ignited or intensified to even weapons of mass destruction levels of horror and terror including chemical, biological, and nuclear.

If nuclear-armed Americans attack, invade, and bomb Iraq (half under age 15), then betrayed Kurds will battle invading Turks, nuclear-armed Israelis will really wage war against suicide-bombing Palestinians, the Islamic schism of Shiite versus Sunni (Iraq/Iran) will be bloodier, and nuclear-armed Pakistanis will face hair-trigger alert nuclear-armed Indians over Kashmir – and all could be set off by a unilateral U.S. first strike.

Imagine the blow back coming our way. And I haven't even mentioned nuclear-armed North Korea. God help us all.

Jay Newbern
San Francisco

Send Weaver to Iraq

The *Manchester Guardian* reports (March 22) that when the U.S. Marines took Safwan in Southern Iraq, Ajami Saadoun Khlis, whose son and brother were executed by Saddam, sobbed on the shoulder of the *Guardian's* Egyptian translator. "You just arrived," he cried. "You're late. What took you so long? God help you become victorious. I want to say hello to Bush, to shake his hand. We came out of the grave." Apparently it's becoming more safe to speak well of Bush in Iraq than in San Francisco.

I have a modest proposal. Let's take up a collection and send Kevin Weaver of Out Against the War to Iraq to meet Mr. Khlis. Let Weaver explain to this man why the marines never should have come, and why, now that they have, the moral thing for them to do is to turn around and leave him to the tender mercies of Saddam Hussein.

Sean Manley
San Francisco

Shame about being gay

Not since I was a teenager have I felt such shame and embarrassment about being gay. Whenever I hear of members of the LBGT community who support Saddam Hussein I almost feel like I was 15 and living in Kernville again. Hussein is a man who has used chemical weapons against his own people. He has had children raped, tortured, and murdered while their parents were forced to watch. It shames me to know there are many in my community who would support him, rather than the president of the United States. As the actions of some of the more vocal members of the LGBT community are so despicable, I can understand why some in mainstream America do not trust or understand gays and lesbians, and therefore wish to deny us some of the civil rights which we do deserve.

Let there be no mistake, those who oppose military intervention in Iraq are helping Saddam Hussein stay in power and build his supply of non-conventional weapons.

Of course, I've heard the argument, "Let the weapons inspectors work." Unfortunately, Saddam has broken 18 United Nations mandates in the past 13 years. Currently, he has 8,500 liters of anthrax, and over 1,000 liters of botulism which he refuses to account for. In January the government of Iraq received, from France, a shipment of chemicals used to make solid-rocket fuel for long-range missiles. Is the antiwar movement so ill-informed they do not realize that U.N. Resolution 1441 calls for Iraq to disarm, and nothing less?

But one of the most appalling things about the LGBT community aligning itself with the antiwar movement is the unabashed greed and selfishness which is so proudly waved. They complain about a possible loss of civil rights after the war starts, but never say how that is going to happen. While wallowing in their own self-pity, they forget that the citizens of Iraq have no civil rights. The antiwar movement complains about possible cutbacks in domestic social welfare programs, when the Iraqi people have no social welfare programs. But somehow, the left would have us believe that they are the only ones who have any compassion for the people of Iraq.

My most serious criticism is for the ignorant members of the LGBT community who support the antiwar group ANSWER. That group was formed, and is led by, the Socialist Worker's Party of America. They supported Slobodan Milosovic (the "Butcher of the Balkans") and also support the current regime in North Korea. Of greater concern though is the fact that they advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. If that were to happen, I wonder how many civil rights the LGBT community would lose then.

I also wonder how many gays and lesbians were murdered in Iraq last week.

Tom McCloskey
Burlingame, California

Neil appeal

I was happy to read in last week's B.A.R. that rocker Neil Young spoke out against the "U.S. government's state of inebriation" ["Stupid pup suffers breakdown; invests in rubber fetishwear," Out There, March 20]. Remember the evolution of Neil Young runs the gamut from the song "Ohio," where four protesters were shot dead on an Ohio campus to his strong support of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. For him to come full circle is something we should demand of more former hippie, antiwar musicians, who now hide in their multimillion-dollar luxury lifestyle, ignoring their convictions of the 1960s and 1970s. But, they also need to get involved in other issues.

Young has addressed the AIDS crisis with his song "Philadelphia" and proceeds to the Gay Men's Health Crisis (Jimmy McDonough's book *Shakey, Neil Young's biography*). And my beautiful friend Taylor Phelps who died of AIDS several years ago, and was a neighbor of Young's in San Mateo County, felt strongly enough to bequeath his restored antique hearse called "William Randolph" to Neil (see www.neilyoung.com).

So war rages, let's not allow our celebrities to ignore the many domestic issues which are getting bumped off of the front page. Demand that they speak up. Principle among these issues is legislation which is now before the state Legislature for universal single-payer health care in California. It would cover everyone in California, including the unemployed, disabled, homeless, seniors, children, and immigrants. It would provide complete medical and prescription coverage, including acupuncture, chiropractic, dental, and optical. It would be less expensive because it would take the insurance companies completely out of the health care loop, saving California \$7 to \$8 billion a year in health care costs, which has additional importance now with the state's budget in crisis. And it would remove the outrageous situation we are in now, where insurance companies seek to insure the healthy and exclude others, especially those with chronic illnesses such as AIDS. This plan is SB921, introduced by state Senator Sheila Kuehl as the Health Care for All Californians Act. You can see the plan by visiting www.sen.ca.gov, typing in bill number 921.

And if you are a friend/fan of any celebrities, let them know your position by calling them or writing to them with words of encouragement. If Young can come full circle by his remarks about the U.S. government this month, surely there are thousands of celebrities (including Young) that could help everyone further by supporting domestic issues such as universal health coverage in California. And all of us can write to our state representatives in support of this less expensive and full health care coverage for everyone. Let's help those who are disenfranchised or have a chronic illness by getting involved in Senator Kuehl's legislation. Health care should be a right, not a privilege.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

Tickled pink by IRV

I was delighted to see your article regarding the GLBT community's efforts to ensure implementation of instant runoff voting this year ("Gay clubs unite for IRV," March 20). IRV encourages collaboration over conflict, emphasizes shared interests and issues over personalities and has already had the salutary effect of bringing the diverse and often divergent voices of our community together to support a common purpose.

And now, with two fine queer candidates seeking the office of mayor, is certainly a good time for our community to come together. Some of us believe that Tom Ammiano's tireless efforts on behalf of GLBT liberation, clean and open government, and economic justice have earned him our loyalty and support. Some of us believe that Susan Leal's competence, background as a child of Mexican immigrants raised in the city, and ability to appeal to voters citywide make her the better candidate. But whether we pick Leal or Ammiano as our first choice, we should all recognize that this year is the year to elect a queer mayor. IRV will help us do that. It's time.

Rafael Mandelman
San Francisco

Ammiano will deliver

I am writing to ask that the Bay Area Reporter endorse the only candidate who I feel has the skill and the knowledge to represent all of San Francisco and its diverse communities – that candidate is Tom Ammiano. Ammiano has been in San Francisco politics for two decades, first serving on the San Francisco Board of Education, then on the Board of Supervisors. He went on to be elected not once, but twice as the board president. He oversaw the city through major change. He gave the city back to district elections, which gave us a more diverse board that truly represents all San Franciscans. As mayor, Ammiano will take on all the special interests that are destroying

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San Francisco's neighborhoods. He will fight for a living wage for all San Franciscans, and most importantly, will work tirelessly to restore confidence in the politics that have been, I feel, tarnished.

There are many other issues that Ammiano stands for: tenants rights as well as the rights of property owners are on his agenda. He has passed many groundbreaking laws that have changed our city for the better. He fought United Airlines when it didn't want to offer domestic partnership benefits to its employees. He will help restore San Francisco and its many neighborhoods to the quaintness it once had. Remember when the Castro was more than just drug stores and fast food chains? Well, Ammiano does. He stands for everything Harvey Milk fought for and will continue the fight. We owe it to San Francisco, we owe it to the memory of Harvey Milk, and most importantly, San Francisco deserves better. Ammiano will deliver.

Some say he already tried to run. Well, that was a last-minute write-in campaign that was extremely exciting and he was up against incredible odds and he almost beat them. This time we have more time, and this time is Ammiano's time.

David W. Martin
San Francisco

Who's the greater threat?

Clinton left office just over two years ago leaving us with peace, prosperity, a surplus of money, low unemployment, a booming economy, strong environmental policies, a healthy stock market, etc. In only a few short months Bush has managed to undo all of this. We are now billions of dollars in debt, at war, and have alienated most of the world. Who is the greater threat to the United States – Saddam Hussein or George Bush?

Edan Milton Hughes
San Francisco

'Peaceful Saturday'

You're invited to celebrate "Peaceful Saturday" (the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday) on April 19.

On this day, we gather outdoors to drum and dance and sing and bodypaint for freedom and peace – acting as if our Mother Earth really were peaceful.

Not just another protest, this mellow day will celebrate hope – yes, even when hope seems foolish. With courage, not fear. With love, not hate.

People will gather in various peaceful places, such as parks, campuses, forests, and beaches, to enjoy themselves and each other.

In San Francisco, we'll merely join in the informal ongoing weekend drum circle at "Hippy Hill" (Sharon Meadow) in Golden Gate Park, around 3 p.m. If you wish, you may bring to share: acoustic musical instruments, sidewalk chalk, bodypaints, fruit or simple vegetarian food.

Who's running this event? Nobody. Who's creating it? Anyone who shows up.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

SFPD reform

I would like to thank the Bay Area Reporter for providing me a moment of mirth recently. I refer to your suggestion in editorial entitled "The SFPD crisis" [March 6] that the Police Commission take an active role in changing the department.

Reform could only come to the department if the people who matter in San Francisco, the big-money brigade, were seriously annoyed. They aren't. I daresay most of them could name their favorite cop. (Mine, incidentally, is a jewel of a woman who some years ago, after weeks of persisting, finally rousted a drug courier and his clattery Volkswagen from behind my house. Sweet sleep! Thank you, officer, if you are still with the force.)

If, at the other end of the socioeconomic spectrum, a small woman in handcuffs gets dropped on her face for a little instant justice, well, she probably wasn't a very nice woman anyway, not at all our sort, the kind who wouldn't know a Dior from a door.

You see the problem?

James Queen
San Francisco

Speak out, scream

A cry goes out for blood from an illegally elected buffoon, and the U.S. citizens do nothing. Constitutional consensus, people?

We'll impeach a president for getting a blow job while in office, but the systemic rape and pillage of the working poor, the impoverished, those struggling with HIV/AIDS or anyone who doesn't ascribe to the "we're the greatest country on earth, give us your oil, your cheap laborers, and pray to Jesus" diatribe is just business as usual? Who cares if we strip thousands of the resources they need to survive?

I gave 15 years of my life volunteering, giving donations, and helping those less fortunate in my community and for my country, only to suffer a tragedy that took everything, including my ability to work. When I turned to that same community/country for help just to survive, what I got was indifference, patented smiles, and explanations of how there just aren't the resources to help from nonprofit employees making enough money annually to help 20 people living with HIV/AIDS feed themselves for six months.

Volunteer rides to needed doctor appointments? Counseling? Affordable housing? Vocational rehabilitation so I can work within my limits now and care for myself? Get real. When will the "out of sight, out of mind" stigma end? No one cares. Go ahead and die in poverty, one less queer tranny with HIV/AIDS for the community/country to worry over, hate, or be embarrassed about. Who cares what you did for anyone?

Shame on all of you.

It's the 21st century. Our efforts should be focused on conquering the disparity between classes, for the needs of survival, advancement, and equality of access for every human being. As well as advancing the exploration of space and making the Earth a sanctuary of life and diversity before we exterminate everything in our greed and self-involvement.

Apparently, no one of stature has the courage to speak the truth we all know. No one is free and equal till we're all free and equal, able to concentrate on the advancement of the species, instead of wasting energy and effort just to survive the indifference of others, and survive alone.

Patrick Gifford
Guerneville, California

A few words from GMC

Thank you for Matthew S. Bajko's wonderful recent coverage of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, which focused on our upcoming "Beyond the Yellow Brick Road: The Songs of Sir Elton John" concert and our continuing contributions to the greater San Francisco community, specifically our recent performance with the Varsity Gold Show Choir of Abraham Lincoln High School ["Gay chorus readyes for spring concerts," March 20]. Even though SFGMC is the oldest openly gay chorus in the world, this evening was yet another recent first for us – the first time we were invited to perform a full concert side by side with a group of high school students! Our mission is to spread gay pride through musical excellence and we were indeed proud to perform with these very talented teens and to help raise money for their performing arts program.

There is a correction that needs to be made to Mr. Bajko's otherwise excellent article. The members of SFGMC are indeed engaged in a fundraising campaign to benefit Nazareth House, an AIDS orphanage in South Africa. We are in partnership with the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which has generously agreed to match every dollar we raise, up to \$10,000, for the Nazareth House Fund. And yes, the students did join in our fundraising and presented us with a check this past Monday night. The error was in the reported amount of the check. While it would have been wonderful to receive the full \$10,000 and have accomplished our goal, the fact is that the check we very gratefully received from the students was for just under \$500.

It is important to make this correction, not out of disrespect to the efforts of the students, whom we appreciate and admire tremendously, but to let the public know that we have not yet achieved our goal and that SFGMC's fundraising effort for Nazareth House is still ongoing. There is already too much complacency about the need for AIDS funding, and with the current state of world events, it might be easy to glide by thinking this "little project" is complete. It is not. In our first quarter-century, SFGMC has been a musical home and social support for over 1,500 gay men. Sadly, we have lost over 200 of our brothers, primarily to AIDS. While this loss has been deeply personal, the members of SFGMC also believe passionately in the importance of reaching beyond our boundaries to help others in need. The average annual income for an African-headed household – 75 percent of South Africa's population and the segment hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic – is approximately 26,000 South African rand, or less than \$2,900 a year. Achieving, or hopefully exceeding our goal of sending \$20,000 to Nazareth House will make a huge difference in the lives of so many children orphaned by AIDS, children who are themselves HIV-infected and will likely not survive to adulthood.

So, on April 12 and 13, we invite you to join in celebrating the artistry of Sir Elton John, one of our own and a man of great talent and humanity. When you purchase your tickets to "Beyond the Yellow Brick Road," please also consider making a tax-deductible donation to that Nazareth House Fund. Tickets are available online at www.sfgmc.org or by calling (415) 865-3650.

Robert Sokol
Marketing & Operations Manager
Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc.

War doesn't stop partisanship in Congress

by Wayne Friday

Though both houses of Congress have approved resolutions of support for the troops fighting the war in Iraq, and thereby technically support **George W. Bush** as commander-in-chief, some Democratic leaders – Senate Minority Leader **Tom Daschle** (D-South Dakota) in particular – have become targets for partisan Republican criticism since the war broke out last week.

Daschle's remarks set off partisan passions when shortly after the first attack on **Saddam Hussein's** Iraq he (Daschle) issued a statement saying, "I'm saddened; saddened that this president has failed so miserably at diplomacy that we're now at war; saddened that we have to give up even one life because this president couldn't create the kind of diplomatic effort that was so critical."

Politically, Daschle's attack on the president might not have been such a smart thing, but Daschle had it right when he criticized Bush's failed diplomacy. The Senate passed a resolution of "support of unity for the troops and the president" by a 99-0 vote (Senator **Zell Miller**, D-Georgia, was absent) and the vote was nearly as strong in the House of Representatives, passing by a 392-11 margin.

Criticism by Daschle and others, however, underscored the difficulty of figuring out the rules of rhetoric in wartime. Democrats are well into their campaign for the White House and the usual rule of politics during wartime is to stop talking, particularly when it comes to any criticism of the president, regardless of which party that president comes from. "When the shooting starts, you salute," says the wartime rule of thumb. If the war is short, as this one is expected by most to be, you just keep expressing support for the troops, and by extension, for the commander-in-chief until the end.

Four of the five Democratic presidential candidates in Congress help formulate national policy, and they have been criticizing Bush on many fronts related to terrorism, except the war against Iraq, which they all say they support. Some of the Democratic presidential candidates do, however, accuse Bush of failing to fund homeland security needs, failing to secure peace in Afghanistan, and badly mishandling diplomacy in advance of the current war.

For example, Senator **Joseph Lieberman** (D-Connecticut) referred last week to Bush's "unilateral, divisive policy" and said that he could spend time "blaming the foreign policy mistakes of the administration for the fact that we are now at war, with far fewer allies on our side than we should have." Lieberman then quickly added: "But now is not that time for that [criticism]."

Another perceived "hawkish" Democratic candidate, Senator **John Edwards** (D-North Carolina) said just prior to the start of the war that Bush had failed "a test of presidential leadership" by failing to "lead in a way that rallies



Senator John Edwards

and the predictable body bags have begun returning; let it all be over soon. As for the hundreds of thousands of protesters, that is their right. But when the protesters promise to bring places like the city of San Francisco to a "standstill," they are dead wrong. Just as those who are against this war have a right to protest, so do the rest of Americans have the right to go on with their lives as peacefully as possible. Again, let it all be over soon.

Politics and people

Though three of the 11 House members who voted last week against the resolution supporting the troops and Bush in the Iraq war were Democrats from the Bay Area (Representatives **Barbara Lee** of Oakland, **Pete Stark** of Fremont, and **Mike Honda** of San Jose), Democratic Senators **Dianne Feinstein**, **Barbara Boxer**, and House Democratic leader **Nancy Pelosi** issued statements supporting the troops. Feinstein: "I have had disagreements with the way in which this president has forged our nation's policy toward Iraq over the past six months (but) I stand fully behind our troops who have gone into harm's way." Stated Pelosi: "Americans will support and stand united behind our courageous men and women in uniform."

Meanwhile, in Sacramento, the Legislature had barely started last Thursday when Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) called it off because the "country is at war" and said members should go home and be with their families. The state Senate canceled its floor session an hour before it was to start as Senate President Pro Tem **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) suggested that lawmakers were preoccupied with the war. The agenda of each house contained seven measures. Those measures would wait, but lawmakers made sure they took one action: in both houses of the Legislature the floor meeting was changed to a "check-in" session, which means that legislators will continue collecting their \$125-per-day, tax-free expense allowances.

Meanwhile, continued antiwar demonstrations in San Francisco are costing the city roughly half a million daily – assuring that social services will be cut even more drastically and layoffs will be likely as the mayor and the Board of Supervisors struggle to find the dollars needed to run the already cash-strapped city.

Democrats are not forgetful, however, that after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, which was completed quickly, public support for then-President **George H.W. Bush** soared to the high 80s. America's sinking national economy after that war, however, created political problems for the elder Bush and he lost re-election a year later to **Bill Clinton**, a near-political unknown governor of Arkansas.

Though national support for Bush and the war is high now, during the heat of the battle, the dominant concern by election time next year could very well be the economy and what has happened to individual Americans. Bush and his war might be a popular "crusade" (the word Bush once used), but California Governor **Gray Davis** put it all into perspective last week when he said: "Let's remember that this war is likely to be a distant memory by November of 2004."

Our Man Friday



America is in a very difficult situation and it's not the way I would have handled it." Kerry added, however, that "I want to win and I'm supporting these troops to get it done as rapidly as possible, and there's plenty of time to go forward from here and hold this administration accountable for the mistakes they have made leading up to this war."

One of the most outspoken Democratic presidential hopefuls, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean**, however, called it "the wrong war at the wrong time" and said he will continue to openly criticize Bush's policies.

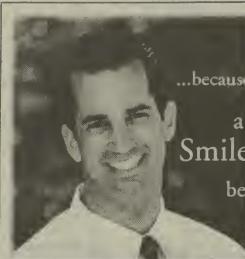
Meanwhile, support for the war on Iraq appears to remain high among Americans – more than two-thirds of those polled say they support the Bush policy on Iraq, and even in Britain, support for Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, the top Bush ally in the Iraq war, appears to have gone up, along with support for the U.K.'s part in the war against Saddam Hussein.

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Meanwhile, the war rages on

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The quest for a big fat gay wedding

by Paula Martinac

Two cases pending in the courts of Massachusetts and New Jersey are once again raising hopes that same-sex marriage rights may be within our reach. Given the gay-friendliness of the courts and laws in these two states, the outcome this time may not be civil union legislation, with its "you-don't-deserve-real-marriage" name. We could actually get marriage itself, "the ultimate expression of love and commitment," according to Mary Bonauto, the civil rights attorney who argued the Massachusetts case.

As Bonauto's words suggest, however, many of us are looking for more than legal rights; we also want marriage to bestow society's stamp of approval on our relationships. "I want to have our relationship respected," one of the plaintiffs in the New Jersey case told the press. In our hurry to attain the legal rights we've been unfairly denied, we may forget that social acceptance requires hard work and usually takes longer to achieve than civil rights.

When I was researching my book on same-sex marriage a few years ago, I found that lesbian and gay couples named "acceptance" and "respect" about as often as "legal protection" as the reason they wanted to marry. Some said they sought the approval for themselves, while others wanted it for their children, who were confused about why Mommy and Mama weren't married like other kids' parents.

It's understandable why we want this acceptance of our love. After all, straight couples who marry get overwhelming approval and support from family, friends, and society in general. Just think about the phenomenal popularity of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

Same-sex couples are tired of having our relationships discredited and demoted. There was a painful series of episodes of *Queer as Folk* in which Lindsey planned her wedding to partner Melanie while dealing with the scorn of her own mother, who wrote off lesbian weddings as not "real" – although she heaped praise and money on a straight daughter's third marriage. And sometimes the downgrading of our relationships happens unintentionally. Just recently, my sister – who has been very accepting of my partner – lumped



Christine Smith

the two of us together with other "single people" she knows, a gaffe that suggests how she really sees our union.

Would legal marriage somehow change these attitudes? Probably not those of narrow-minded people like Lindsey's mother on QAF, who seem to have a stake in their own intolerance. They see it as perfectly acceptable – even desirable – for the government to decide that only straight relationships can receive the sanctions of legal marriage.

Consider, too, that although interracial marriages have now been legal for more than 35 years, mixed-race

couples and their families still turn heads on plenty of American streets. A few years ago, a PBS documentary called *An American Love Story* demonstrated how even a married black man and white woman living in liberal New York City have elicited open-mouthed stares when they kiss in public.

The achieving of same-sex marriage rights, however, might have a positive impact on people like my sister (who, by the way, is critical of straight couples who live together without making the commitment of marriage). It's these sympathetic people – and voters – whom more of us should be seeking out as political allies, in order to help the struggle going on in the courtrooms. As marriage activists have correctly pointed out, the victory for marriage rights won't come through the courts alone, since legislatures and voters can and will try to amend state constitutions – and possibly the federal Constitution – to prohibit same-sex marriage.

Luckily, when it comes to changing social attitudes, queers have one thing working in our favor that interracial couples didn't: popular culture, which still rarely dares to portray interracial

marriages but has made a good start at depicting same-sex ones. Indeed, there's been so much about gay marriage in the media, in TV series, and in movies that some of my partner's college-age students don't realize same-sex couples can't actually get married.

Same-sex marriage activists have been working hard to engage public discussion about why marriage rights are necessary and just. Earlier this month, a town meeting on the subject was held in Jersey City, one of 10 planned in New Jersey by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed the marriage suit in that state. These events don't just reach out to the "converted," but also to those potential straight allies who may not have given much thought to why gay couples need and deserve marriage rights.

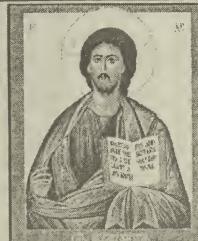
In addition, there's a promising new organization called the Freedom to Marry Collaborative (www.geocities.com/freedomtomarry), founded by former Lambda attorney Evan Wolfson. The group has made a mission of finding allies for same-sex marriage rights and helping the gay community, as Wolfson puts it, "reach beyond itself to talk with our nongay fellow Americans."

Indeed, that's the work we all need to be doing – talking to our families, friends, neighbors, coworkers, bosses and business associates, students, teachers, health-care workers, acquaintances from our churches and synagogues. Success for marriage rights in the courts, although vital and encouraging, is only one piece of the complex puzzle of righting injustice. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

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positive space > polk | April 1

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TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Club Rendez-Vous | 1312 Polk Street (at Bush Street)

positive force in motion | April 13

We spend more time outdoors than those Crixivan models. Spend an afternoon with us at one of San Francisco's parks, museums or nature tours. Low-impact and ADA accessible.

SUNDAY | 1pm | STOP AIDS Project | 2128 15th Street (at Market Street)

plus additions | April 15

Have you been to a PLUS Seminar but would like a chance for in-depth exploration on a particular subject? Missing that weekend bond and want to re-connect with participants? PLUS Additions hit one topic hard each month. Call the P-Force info line at 415.865.0790 x306 for more information or just drop by.

TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th)

café positive | April 17

Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment newsflash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

THURSDAY | 1 - 3pm | Castro Country Club | 4058 18th Street (Castro/Hartford)

positive space > soma | April 24

Is SOMA your neighborhood? Think the Castro is just a little too chi-chi? This is Positive Space with a leather twist. Come see and be seen. Join other HIV+ gay/bi men at one of our regular events and speak your mind, bare your soul and get connected. No drama, no issues — we'll even provide the topic of conversation (and snacks).

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positive space > chat café | April 30

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Who was Noel Coward?

by Liz Highleyman

March 26, 1973 (30 years ago this week): Playwright and composer Noel Coward dies in Jamaica.

In 2000, a theater magazine poll of the greatest theater and film personalities of all time ranked Noel Coward second only to William Shakespeare. Known for his wit and elegance, Coward defined the "New English Man" of the post-World War I era. Although regarded as a gay icon today, Coward was never open about his homosexuality.

Coward was born to a musical family in December 1899 in Teddington, a London suburb. Smitten with the theater as a young boy, he began acting at age 12, encouraged by his ambitious mother. Coward had his first sexual experience – with another boy actor – at age 13, but his closest friends were girls, including child actresses Gertrude Lawrence and Esme Wyne. Coward and Wyne reportedly exchanged clothes on occasion and strolled through London in drag.

By 15, Coward was already a well-known actor and had begun writing and composing. He produced and starred in his first full-length play, *I Leave It to You*, at age 21. Four years later *The Vortex*, his controversial work about sexual shenanigans and drug abuse among the upper class, was a smash hit and made its young writer a celebrity. By his mid-30s Coward had written and produced some of his best-known plays, including *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, and *Cavalcade*.

Unlike the aristocrats he often chronicled, Coward was from a lower-middle-class background, but his talent won him entry into fashionable circles. Dubbed one of the postwar era's "bright young things," Coward – who often wore a silk dressing gown and carried a cigarette holder – was known as much for his panache as for his wit. Although he enjoyed his portrayal as a playboy in the popular press, Coward was in fact a workaholic. In 1926 he collapsed onstage in one of several nervous

breakdowns. From then on, he limited his performances to three-month runs, but he never ceased to churn out new material. During the course of his career he wrote more than 50 plays and 300 songs and starred in 25 films. Coward once said that to create successful work, an artist must "consider the public. Coax it, charm it, interest it, shock it now and then if you must, make it laugh, make it cry, make it think, but above all never, never, never bore the living hell out of it."

World War II brought major changes in Coward's life. He briefly worked as an undercover intelligence agent, a job for which he proved to be too well-known. He then devoted himself to entertaining troops around the globe. After the war, he continued to write and perform, but his style fell out of favor and his work was criticized as frivolous and outdated. In the 1950s he became a cabaret performer, achieving popular acclaim in Las Vegas. Escaping England's high taxes, Coward lived in Jamaica and Switzerland. He was friends with many famous artists, including Laurence Olivier, Errol Flynn, Daphne du Maurier, Spencer Tracy, and Katharine Hepburn.

Coward had sexual and romantic relationships with men throughout his life. Jack Wilson, an American stockbroker, was his lover and business manager for a decade beginning in the mid-1920s, until Wilson's excessive drinking drove the men apart. After World War II Coward fell in

Past Out



Noel Coward

love with South African actor Graham Payne; the two men were together until Coward's death. But Coward was always circumspect about his same-sex relationships, as were many other gay men of that era – a time when homosexuality was still illegal in Britain.

Although never publicly adopting a gay identity, Coward sometimes addressed homosexuality metaphorically in his work, which often dealt with hidden longing, societal hypocrisy, and the battle against conventional moral restrictions. *Design for Living*, depicting a bisexual menage a trois between two men and a woman (and starring the famous "lavender couple" Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne), sold out every night of its Broadway run. In 1966 Coward wrote and starred in *Song at Twilight*, the story of an aging gay author who fears he will be

exposed – his only work to deal explicitly with homosexuality. "Coward paved the way for the growing cultural acceptance of homosexuality that marked the past hundred years," claims *Variety* theater critic Charles Isherwood. "He gave audiences a taste for the irreverence and artifice of camp that couldn't be erased when its link to gay experience was finally acknowledged."

Coward was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1970. In January 1973 he appeared with longtime friend Marlene Dietrich at a performance of the off-Broadway revue of his work, *Oh Coward!* It would be his last public appearance – he died at his home in Jamaica in March of that year. In 1984 a memorial stone was unveiled in Westminster Abbey bearing words from one of his songs: "I believe that since my life began, the most I've had is just a talent to amuse."

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at POcolumn@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Hoare, Philip. 1996. *Noel Coward: A Biography* (Simon and Schuster).

Payn, Graham and Morley, Sheridan (eds.). 1982. *The Noel Coward Diaries* (Little Brown).

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

be a pushover as she comes up for re-election next year. Bush had made opening the area to oil drilling a central element of his energy policy.

One of the hottest invite ticketholders during the recent California Democratic Party Convention in Sacramento was the private tour of both the Assembly and Senate floors given to delegates by Assembly Speaker Pro Tem **Christine Kehoe** (D-San Diego) and San Francisco Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D).

A recent *Los Angeles Times* poll shows a planned recall aimed at Governor Davis losing by a 51 percent to 39 percent margin; the same poll shows Senator Barbara Boxer easily beating any Republican by a likely 47 percent to 30 percent margin.

The politically powerful San

Francisco Police Officers Association has overwhelmingly endorsed **Gavin Newsom** for mayor, but please, don't mention it to **Angela Alioto**.

In Georgia, a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) panel last week upheld the denomination leader's refusal to call a special meeting where conservatives wanted to push for a stronger enforcement of a ban on gay clergy. The decision was not a total victory for the moderator of the church, the Reverend **Fahed Abu-Akel**, of Atlanta. The panel, the Permanent Judicial Commission, rebuked Abu-Akel, saying he had overstepped his authority by imploring the supporters of the meeting to reconsider; that action led to the withdrawal of a petition that sought a "special assembly" to address the issue of gays in the clergy, although it had the required number of signatures to force a meeting under church law.

Those who are supposed to

know these things tell me that former Mayor **Art Agnos** has decided not to seek the state Senate seat John Burton will give up next year due to term limits.

And from the *Sacramento Bee* comes word that one of my favorite longtime legislators, state Senator **John "Vasco" Vasconcellos** (D-Santa Clara), who has a record of being a longtime friend to California community colleges, was treated a bit rudely at the recent Capital rally called to protest community college budget cuts. In fact, the *Bee* said the popular Vasco was treated like "the enemy." Taking the mike before some 8,000 protesters, Vasconcellos tried to offer a "honesty check" on how there was no escaping the budget deficit. He lasted one minutes and was booted off the stage. Leaving the stage in disgust, the *Bee* claims that Vasconcellos had a two-word response for the crowd and the one word they could print was – "them."

And how was your week? ▼

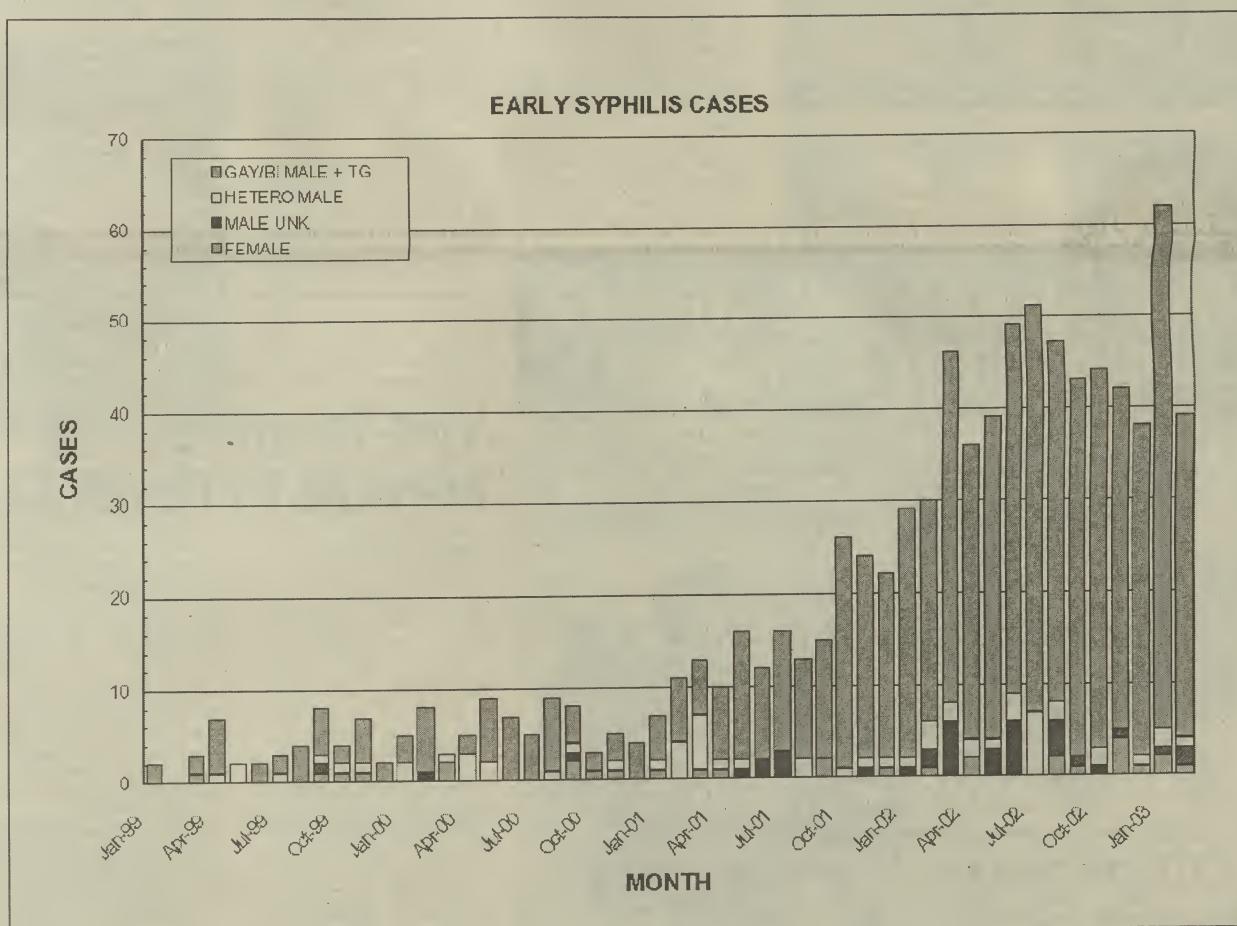
Three decades of gay softball



Three San Francisco mayoral hopefuls, from left Supervisors **Gavin Newsom**, **Tom Ammiano**, and **Treasurer Susan Leal**, threw out ceremonial pitches at the Gay Softball League's 30th anniversary Opening Day festivities Sunday, March 23 at Moscone Park. The league, with 45 teams and more than 650 members, will compete from March to June. Competition culminates on playoff weekend July 12-13 and in the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance World Series in Washington, D.C. in August. For more information, visit www.sfgsl.org.

SYPHILIS UPDATE

- The number of syphilis cases has increased 1000% from 55 cases in 1999 to 494 cases in 2002.
- Syphilis is spread by “skin-to-skin” contact or unprotected anal, vaginal AND oral sex.
- Over 65% of the men diagnosed with syphilis are HIV+.
- Having syphilis makes HIV 2 to 5 times easier to pass onto or to get from your sex partners.
- Syphilis can be easily cured with antibiotics.
- All sexually active gay or bisexual men should get tested for syphilis every six months.
- Syphilis testing is available at: City Clinic or by your private medical doctor. For more information, call 487-5580.



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Paula Ettelbrick to head IGLHRC

by Zak Szymanski

At a time when many nations are opposed to American policies, and many gays are wary of the abuses faced by sexual minorities abroad, the next executive director of the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission has a difficult task: pushing for human rights around the globe despite operating from a country with its own perceived violations.

Which is why many are applauding the hiring of Paula Ettelbrick for IGLHRC's top spot. IGLHRC announced on March 17 that Ettelbrick, a longtime civil rights activist, lawyer, and law professor, will begin on May 1 as executive director of the 12-year-old organization. At press time, information on Ettelbrick's salary was not available.

Ettelbrick was the first staff attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, and later served as that organization's legal director from 1986-93, doubling its staff and opening offices in Los Angeles and Chicago and helping to make Lambda the nation's leading LGBT legal advocacy group.

In 1993 she was public policy director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights and in 1994 she became legislative counsel for New York's Empire State Pride



IGLHRC's Paula Ettelbrick

Agenda, the statewide LGBT political lobbying group, co-founding the Federation of LGBT Statewide Political Groups in the process. From 1999-2001 she was family policy director for the Polity Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

More recently, she has been teaching courses on legal aspects of sexuality and non-marital family structures at the University of Michigan, New York University, Columbia University, and Wayne State law schools.

"We're delighted to have Paula's range and depth of experience as IGLHRC charts its next stage in building a global grassroots LGBT human rights movement against discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity," said IGLHRC board chair Nicky McIntyre. "Paula's reputation and background in fighting for human

rights will assist us in increasing IGLHRC's effectiveness within the United Nations and with other non-governmental human rights organizations around the world."

Of particular importance, according to IGLHRC, is Ettelbrick's commitment to international law, which will take the form of criticizing oppressive regimes, even if that means speaking out against the United States.

"IGLHRC views [the Bush administration] policies and campaigns as threats to international human rights as well as civil liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution," the group said in a recent statement.

IGLHRC has also been critical of the United States' recent dealings with the United Nations on AIDS and racial issues, and Ettelbrick has indicated that she doesn't plan to shy away from abuses here at home.

"At this stage the fight for justice and human dignity must be fought on a global scale. As some countries have moved forward in securing rights for LGBT people so many others are openly abusive to sexual minorities," said Ettelbrick. "We need to make sure that international law – as well as the domestic laws of each nation – require all countries to protect the human rights of everybody."

Ettelbrick succeeds Surina Khan, who stepped down in December. Her first public appearance as IGLHRC's executive director will be at the Felipe Award ceremonies honoring Argentinian transgender activist Lohana Berkins in San Francisco on May 29.

For more information, visit www.iglrc.org. ▼

Vote for grand marshals by March 31

by Zak Szymanski

It's your last chance to check off the names of favorite community heroes worthy of recognition. Grand marshal voting for the 2003 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade – held in conjunction with the festival over the weekend of June 28 and 29 – wraps up on Monday, March 31.

Voters can choose up to three nominees, and the top vote-getter will be honored as the community's pick for individual grand marshal.

Individual marshal nominees are Georgina Beyer of New Zealand, the first transexual person elected to parliament anywhere in the world; Larry Brinkin, the openly gay manager of the LGBT and HIV Division of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; Rahn Fudge, founder and creator of Q-TV; Robert Jobe, a local immigration attorney who has successfully represented hundreds of clients seeking political asylum in the U.S. based on their sexual orientation, transgender identity, or HIV status; Carolyn Laub, queer activist and founder of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, California's largest youth-led organization; John Manzon-Santos, executive director of the Asian and Pacific

Islander Wellness Center; Vicki Marlene, longtime transgender performer and philanthropist; Aleem Raja, the openly gay Muslim attorney for Public Interest Clearinghouse and board member of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel and Trikone, a South Asian LGBT organization; Snatch, drag performer, charitable fundraiser, and recently crowned Empress; and Hank Wilson, longtime gay and HIV activist who now coordinates volunteers for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

Organization grand marshals include: Lesbians in the Visual Arts, Trikone, the Youth Gender Project, Marriage Equality California, and Team San Francisco.

The Pride Committee will be circulating throughout the Bay Area this weekend with ballots. Scheduled polling appearances include 10 p.m. stints on Friday, March 28, at Oakland's California Ballroom, 1736 Franklin Street; San Francisco's full-time dyke bar the Lexington Club, at 19th and Lexington; and the Bench & Bar's Latin Explosion party at 120 11th Street in Oakland.

On Saturday, March 29, Pride pollsters will make their way to "Hibernia Beach" (Castro and 18th) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and to Club Papi at 11 p.m., 550 Barneveld in San Francisco.

next page ▶

COMMUNITY NEWS

TG, lesbian honored in Capitol as Assembly women of the year

by Joe Dignan

All smiles, Assemblyman Mark Leno and Theresa Sparks walked arm in arm, flashbulbs popping, down the center aisle of the Assembly Chamber in Sacramento on Monday morning, March 24.

Leno, a Democrat and San Francisco's 13th District assemblyman, was one of two openly gay men elected to the Assembly last November. The occasion, the Assembly's annual "Woman of the Year Awards," usually gets little attention as a "good news" event and is a way for the legislators to honor women who have done good work in their districts.

But this year was different. Sparks is transgender, and is the first transgender woman to get the award.



Jane Pinsonen/Candid

San Francisco's Theresa Sparks

Sparks, wearing a black pantsuit and pearls, said the reaction from Leno's legislative colleagues was mixed.

"We were pushing the envelope," she said. "Some people smiled. Some people gave me the thumbs up. Some people looked away. It was like we were getting married."

"It can't help but serve as validation. Validation for who I am and validation for what I've tried to accomplish," added Sparks, who serves on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and has been instrumental in making transgender rights a visible issue in San Francisco. She is also a co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

"It's very important to put a face to transgender people," Sparks said. "Once you're able to personify being transgender, acceptance comes very quickly."

"But that's not to suggest that there isn't a lot to do. Seventy per-

cent of transgender people are unemployed. And a transgender person is murdered at a rate of one per month, averaging two for the last several months," she said.

California's other gay Democratic assemblyman, John Laird of Santa Cruz, and his honoree, lesbian activist Deborah Abbott, followed Leno and Sparks.

Abbott has been a longtime advocate for women's rights in Laird's Santa Cruz district. She founded a resource center for women with cancer called Women CARE (Cancer Advocacy Resources and Education) in the early 1990s. She said she modeled the organization on the Santa Cruz AIDS Project, which was doing good work in providing comprehensive support for people with AIDS.

"But a woman with cancer?" Abbott said. "She could go to the American Cancer Society and get a wig."

Early in her career, in the 1970s, Abbott was involved with the Women's Health Collective in Santa Cruz.

At the time, Abbott recalled, Santa Cruz had only one hospital, a Catholic one, that wouldn't perform abortions, so Abbott and her colleagues taught women to do self-pregnancy tests and drove them out of the county to get abortions if they wanted them. The group also had an educational function.

"You'd sit in a circle with mirrors and speculums. Most women had never seen their external genitalia much less their cervixes and vaginas," Abbott said.

The center is still running in Santa Cruz.

Abbott now runs the GLBTI resource center at the University of California, Santa Cruz, which she founded five years ago, and has spent 13 years as a family therapist, counseling mainly transgender people and married women who are coming out, she explained.

Abbott is the author of a book, *From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life*, and has helped raise two biological children and one child of her partner.

A polio survivor, Abbott said, "I guess I'm an overachiever. The whole set of challenges that disability brought me has contributed to my strength."

The honorees are symbolic of the work that the Legislature's new five-member LGBT Caucus is trying to do — and its new-found strength.

The caucus has introduced several major bills, one of which, by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), would give California domestic partners most of the same rights as married peo-



Santa Cruz's Deborah Abbott

ple. Governor Gray Davis has already asked the caucus to scale back the bill, which, according to a spokesman, he called "too aggressive," but its sponsors, like Leno and Laird, think it has a good chance of clearing the Legislature.

The caucus has also reintroduced a bill that requires sensitivity to sexual orientation and gender identity in the foster care system. ▼

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Grand marshals

◀ previous page

On Sunday, March 30, voting takes place from 1-3 p.m. at the Gay Straight Alliance Network's Tupperware party at San Francisco's LGBT Center at 1800 Market Street. Additionally, polling takes place Monday through Friday, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Pride office at 1390 Market Street, Suite 903. Ballots may also be mailed, up to two per envelope, to 1230 Market Street PMB #421 San Francisco 94102; ballots appeared in earlier March issues of the *Bay Area Reporter*, *Bay Times*, and *Mom Guess What*. For more information, visit www.sfpride.org/yourvoice/gmnominees.htm. ▼



Antiwar LGBTs

◀ page 1

from further uptown and jumped into the first demonstration they came across. Signs included, "Who Would Jesus Bomb," and a woman in the center of the street wore a T-shirt that said, "My son is in Iraq and all I got was a fascist state."

Cars trying to circumvent the blockade drove onto the sidewalk, but protesters quickly filled in all the gaps, blocking access. "We support you, but we're trying to get to work," one woman screamed.

"Don't go!" the crowd responded, then chanted, "No business as usual. Walk out in refusal."

Another man, expressing his annoyance, reluctantly nodded after a protester told him, "It could be worse — you could be in Baghdad."

On several occasions, angry motorists became violent, leaving their cars to confront and attack protesters, who remained peaceful but surrounded their attackers to minimize potential harm.

Marching down Mission, the demonstrators were met by a group of mobile activists on bicycles at 7th Street, then became cornered when dozens of officers

with billy clubs ran down Fourth Street and lined up in front of them. At that point, the group disbanded, but reorganized around 11 a.m. at 6th and Brannan streets, where again officers gave chase, and protesters dragged more road blocks — often in the form of barricades left by police — into the streets. At several points along this route, police succeeded in doing exactly what the protesters wanted: blocking intersections and tying up traffic.

The group — which by now had swelled to several hundred — made it to Third and Mission, where more officers soon arrived on a Muni bus with its windshield sign declaring, "San Francisco: The city that knows how." They gave chase until protesters spread out, but in the next block, the group intersected with a larger group, at which point it was apparent that the streets had been won. Thousands of people, cheering each other as they joined into one large mass, took over Mission, then Market Street, and headed up toward the Civic Center around noon.

Meanwhile, down in the Financial District, LGBT activists took part in the demonstrations to shut down key corporations that stand to financially benefit from the war. About 50 people af-



Antiwar protesters take part in a "die-in" in the Castro.

impact of keeping police on the streets. One news broadcast even encouraged viewers who were tired of the "mean spirited" peace protests in San Francisco to drive to the suburbs for a pro-war rally.

At a cost of up to \$900,000 a day, according to many news reports, the protests are impacting the very social service programs that many demonstrators support. Brown — who for years has been criticized for supporting policies that have displaced lower-income residents — is now expressing concern for how marginalized San Franciscans are affected by the protests.

These reported criticisms, however, failed to mention that the war is costing up to several billion dollars a month, which is the biggest source of strain on government-funded social service programs, said activists. The news accounts also failed to mention the high cost of police and city corruption; according to the *San Francisco Chronicle's* own reports, for instance, Brown's ties to City Tow may have helped to secure the company's exclusive contract with the city despite its alleged fraudulent practices that may have cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. And at a time when eight SFPD officers face indictments and possible civil lawsuits, the economic impact of the scandal is not yet certain, although Captain Greg Corrales's career alone, according to the *Chronicle*, has already cost the city \$280,000 in jury awards and settlements.

Even the sporadic vandalism of some protesters, noted KRON-4 News, did not compare to the damage done in Oakland after the Raiders made it to the Super Bowl.

And as for the impacted social service programs, many of these programs' employees say it is costlier not to protest the war.

"If we are not to speak up in the short-term, service providers in the long-term will continue to suffer as the government continually pumps more funds into killing machines and less funds for services for individuals that need them," said Ned Howey, a full-time staffer at Pets Area Wonderful Support, an organization that serves people with AIDS and other debilitating illnesses. Howey also coordinates the "Generation Q" column for the *Bay Area Reporter*.

On Thursday, Howey was arrested with 80 other people while protesting at the very symbolic intersection of Bush and Powell. "We may suffer a little today or tomorrow for a couple of protests but in the long-term we'll have no services at all if we remain silent." ▼

filiated with various queer affinity groups, according to activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca, started the day in front of the Westinghouse building at Battery and Broadway, and also traveled to the Transamerica building to support the activists facing arrest there.

Other queers took part in demonstrating against Bechtel. Even the dyke-oriented "Crafty Bitches" knitting group played a noticeable role, blocking intersections while they "knitted for peace."

The queer group swelled to more than 200 people as it connected with other clusters, said Avicoli Mecca, and as it moved toward Market Street, it was suddenly joined by thousands of people who "seemed to come out of nowhere," he said.

"We were marching as this little queer contingent chanting 'We're here, we're queer, we're out against the war,' and all these people started joining us," he said. "There were thousands of people behind us chanting and it didn't matter if they were queer straight or whatever, everybody was just cheering us on and taking up the chant. It was like the revolution had come."

Queer directions

About 500 queers and allies marched through the Castro on Friday, March 21, starting at 6 p.m. Organized by the Out Against the War Coalition, participants negotiated with police to allow for a peaceful march that began small but was joined by other protesters coming from downtown. After a short rally at Harvey Milk Plaza, the group proceeded down Market Street to Church, over Church to 18th, then

back to the Castro/Market intersection where it blocked traffic for about 10 minutes to do a "die-in."

Protests continued throughout the weekend and into this week, with another large gathering on Saturday, March 22 for a march that included a diverse representation of business owners and workers, teachers, activists, union members, healthcare workers, parents, and school kids.

The large peace march was informally hijacked and led by a queer contingent, including members of Gay Shame and the Out Against the War Coalition, with sleep-deprived chants including, "Fags, not body bags," and "Shock and awe: That's what queers are for."

Commentary over the electronic megaphone included remarks such as, "The Gap is so tired, they don't even put cops in front of it anymore." And a handful of LGBT protesters selectively "humped for peace," grinding the windows of corporate stores and complexes and eliciting photographs, shock, and awe from tourists.

As arrests continued into the weekend, many queer activists — although reportedly denied food and water for several hours — took advantage of the sex-segregated cells to strike up new romances.

"Holding Cell 11 Last Night," read one missed connection ad on the Craigslist.org women-for-women board. "You: green plaid shirt, works with kids, Capricorn, best laugh in the cell."

Follow the money

Mainstream media outlets were quick to relay and echo Mayor Willie Brown's message that the protests were doing more harm than good with the financial

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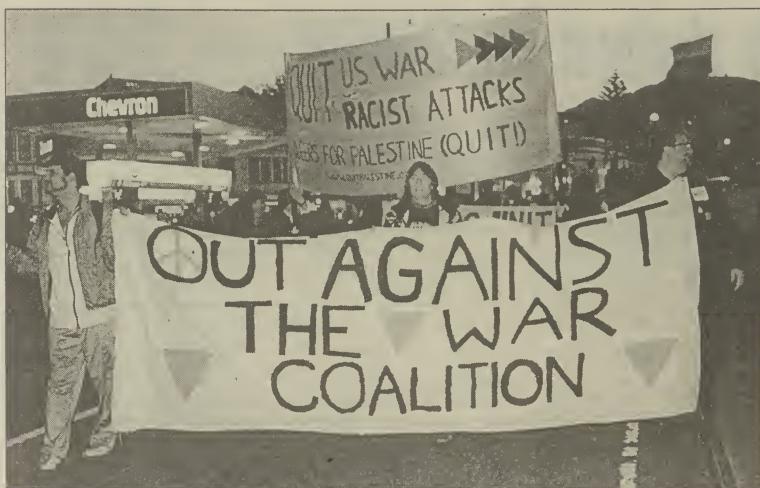
Here come the brides (& grooms)



Mayor Willie Brown, center, escorts Julia Adams and Rebecca Prozan, left, and Laura Perkins and Roxi Power Hamilton, right, down the stairs in City Hall as he led the procession of 36 couples for the seventh annual commitment ceremony Tuesday, March 25. The elegant ceremony featured performances by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir. A reception following the ceremony featured cake and a champagne toast.

Rick Gerhardt

COMMUNITY NEWS



Kate Raphael, center, holds banner at LGBT antiwar march in the Castro last Friday, March 21.



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Pride and protest in the Castro

by Joe Dignan

Kate Rafael was arrested on Friday morning. At 7:30 a.m. she joined a group of other protesters in front of Bechtel's office on Beale Street, where she sat down and refused to move. By 8:30 she had been arrested and was on her way, in the back of a paddy wagon with eight other women, to the San Francisco Police Department's temporary booking facility on Pier 27.

By Friday evening, at about 5:30, she was back — this time at the corner of Castro and Market for a protest organized by Out Against the War Coalition, an affinity group of gays and lesbians who have organized contingents in several of the protests.

The Friday evening gathering had been promoted by word of mouth, handbills, and over a Web site and mailing list run by Larry Roberts called "Queer Things to Do in San Francisco," whose listings normally run to movies, shows, and the queer comedy night Roberts produces every Monday at the LGBT Community Center.

By about 6 p.m., the scheduled start of the protest, dusk was falling and about 50 people had gathered, milling in front of the brightly-lit Diesel store. A little later, some of the regular Out Against the War protesters — Kevin Weaver and Tommi Avicoli Mecca — had started rallying the group through a bullhorn.

"I could talk all night, but I won't," Avicoli Mecca said. "War is about masculinity. Our government doesn't have the right to decide who should govern another country."

As the speeches went on and the sun went down, the temperature started to drop, and Rafael turned her back on the regular Friday evening traffic on Castro Street, zipped up her windbreaker over her black "Dykes from Hell" T-shirt and, standing next to a friend, Deeg Gold, talked about her view of the official response to the protest, and the behavior of the police through it all.

She said she had been roughed up that morning. She said one of the officers arresting her had grabbed her hand from behind and begun to twist it. Demon-

strating on Gold, who was to her left, she said, "He was really wrenching it," trying to force her to get up off the sidewalk. When she did get up, she claimed that the same policeman had said, "Put on the cuffs, so we can really crank it."

She said she had been talking to one of the reporters covering the event. "Did you know that 50 percent of the Iraqi public are children?" Rafael said she asked. It's a theme that protesters have frequently touched upon.

She said one of the police answered, "I have two words to say to that: safe sex."

"By contrast," Raphael said, "the police at the pier were extremely courteous."

Police on overtime

One of those cops, lesbian Sergeant Lea Militello, had been on duty at the pier, citing and booking demonstrators since the protests began last Thursday.

"The thing for me is it's extremely tiring. You're working very long hours," said Militello. "Seventeen hours one day, 18 hours the next. It's exhausting. At the peak of things on Thursday we went through 874 citations and several hundred were booked."

Asked about how she felt about the protests, Militello said, "Because of what you're doing you don't have an opportunity to feel or think anything. It's just hour after hour after hour."

The Police Department has arrested approximately 2,400 people, more than any protests during the Vietnam era, and San Francisco officials say that the demonstrations are costing the city as much as \$900,000 per day, according to Mayor Willie Brown's spokesman, P.J. Johnston. Supervisor Tony Hall introduced measures at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting to try and make protesters pay.

"I think the impetus is that we'll look to find out if these costs are recoverable. We're spending a million dollars a day to maintain order on the street. I want to recover damages. There have been assaults on civilians, assaults on police, damage to businesses, terrorizing people on the street and destroying automobiles," Hall said.

Hall has also asked the district

attorney's office to prosecute protesters "to the fullest extent allowed under the law."

"Something has to happen rather than just turning them out and letting them go," Hall said.

Brown, who has repeatedly said he is opposed to the war, has objected to the protests when they turned violent or disruptive. He has also repeatedly said that many

next page ▶

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DADT discharges down in 2002

by Bob Roehr

Discharges from the military under the antigay policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" declined by nearly a third in fiscal year 2002, which ended in September. It was the lowest level of discharges since 1996. It was the first full of reporting year under the Bush administration.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network released the information on March 25 in *Conduct Unbecoming*, its ninth annual report on that policy. "The time has come to do away with the Pentagon's charade and make sure no one loses his or her career at the hands of antigay discrimination," said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn.

Gay discharges dropped from 1,273 in the year that ended in September 2001, to 906 in the most current fiscal year. Both the Navy and the Air Force recorded the fewest number of discharges ever since DADT was enacted into law in 1993. The Army, as the largest of the services, topped the list with 429 discharges.

The good news is also reflected in declining reports of harassment within the ranks received by SLDN. However, serious levels of harassment continue to occur, with 405 examples reported in the Army, 230 in the Navy, 76 in the Air Force, and 57 in the Marines.

The report noted the increasing reluctance of commanders to discharge openly gay soldiers, and the acknowledgment that they can serve without undermining unit cohesion. Still, discharges continue at the rate of nearly three a day.

SLDN's report chastised the Pentagon for failing to implement an anti-harassment action plan adopted in 2000.

"During time of war, when good order and discipline is vital, it is irresponsible for the Pentagon not to take its commitment to end harassment seriously," the report stated.

Osburn pointed out the abur-

dity of the military in discharging trained Arabic language specialists last year, even as the possibility of war loomed and the Pentagon acknowledged a shortfall in Arabic speakers.

"The time has come to lift the ban and welcome all qualified patriots to our struggle for freedom, regardless of their sexual orientation," he said. SLDN has initiated a five-year program to repeal the

legislation.

Osburn also criticized the Bush administration for renominating General Robert T. Clark for promotion and command of the Fifth United States Army. Clark was commander of Fort Campbell in Kentucky when Private First Class Barry Winchell was murdered in his sleep, the victim of a gay bashing.

SLDN has maintained that

Clark's failure in leadership contributed to the antigay attitude at the base. It opposed his nomination during the last session of Congress and has called for hearings on the promotion.

Meanwhile, the British Ministry of Defense announced that military pensions would be awarded to partners of service members killed in action in Iraq, where there is "a substantial rela-

tionship." That includes the partners of gays and lesbians as well as unmarried heterosexual couples. Existing legislation includes only legal spouses but the ministry has extended the benefits through interpretation of intent. ▼

The report *Conduct Unbecoming* is available at www.sldn.org.

Protest in Castro

◀ previous page

of the protesters are from outside of San Francisco, and wishes that they would protest in their own communities. Johnston cited statistics from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, which cited 684 people as of Monday, morning, March 24, a small fraction of those cited by the SFPD, but of those, 63 percent were from outside San Francisco.

Night in the Castro

Even though Rafael lives in Berkeley, she has become experienced in the rhythm of the protests.

So shortly after the California Highway Patrol helicopter circled twice — to jeers — over the little knot of protesters at Castro and Market, the first police arrived at the corner.

An SFPD pickup truck, driven by lesbian Officers Hope Nechuta and Sandy Gansier, pulled up to the curb.

Rafael's friend Gold, who had been appointed unofficial police liaison for the group, quietly negotiated a route for the protest: down Market Street, right on Church, up 18th Street, and then back up Castro to Market.

Gansier is normally the permit officer for Mission Station. Asked if she had been involved in the protests she said, at the end of a 14-hour shift, "We've been protesting we don't get to go home." She then got in the truck

with Nechuta and drove off.

At about 6:35 p.m. the speeches had ended and the group seemed hesitant about what to do next. Then a jingling of bicycle bells sounded from down Market Street as another group of protesters from another rally at the Civic Center came up the street. Emboldened, the first of the Out Against the War protesters stepped off the curb and into the street.

By the time the group passed Gold's Gym on Market Street, their numbers had swollen to several hundred.

"Get off your treadmills," they shouted, and resumed their rallying cry from other protests, "We're here, we're queer, we're out against the war."

By the time the crowd got to Church, they were followed by four police cruisers, like street sweepers at a circus parade. By the time they got halfway to Church Street, the crowd had turned raucous and was yelling epithets at the police.

Another cop who has been working on the streets, rookie Officer Peter Shields, said he felt police are misunderstood.

"A lot of the people think that because we're out there, we're pro-war. We're all human. No one likes to be called 'asshole.' I get to the point where it's all the same rhetoric. So I zone out. I just look for weapons," Shields said.

Officials react

But queer San Francisco offici- aldom has come down squarely

on the side of the protesters. Su-

pervisor Tom Ammiano said he thought that even though the protests are having a very harmful effect on the local economy, "I think the demonstrations are very American, very San Franciscan, and very queer. We have the gift of dissent, and I think it needs to be used. We certainly can be supportive of our troops without supporting Mr. Bush's war."

"I feel like we've lost control of the country. I'm just so angry," said Supervisor Bevan Dufty.

Dufy said that while he doesn't think his place is on the streets, that as a result of the war, he was resolved to strongly support Howard Dean for president. Dean had vowed to oppose the war even after U.S. troops were committed.

Back to Castro

The protesters turned the corner at 18th and marched up Castro back to Market. They blocked the intersection, chanting and cheering, and then began to lie down in the middle of Market Street.

The "die-in," Rafael later said, had been planned from the beginning.

It was, by this time, about 7:30 p.m.

"We'll shut down the city again and again and again," shouted one of the protesters from the center of the now nearly dark intersection.

A few minutes later, Lieutenant Roger Battaglia, who is now in command at Mission Station, squawked into his radio. "We've got a blockade westbound on Market Street. We're not going to give them any warning to disperse," and dispatched six cops, in riot gear, batons drawn, to march

out into the roadway.

Just as quickly as they had coalesced, the protesters began jumping out of the busy street, dodging cars, and crowded back on to the sidewalks.

"If you get arrested they hold you, and if they hold you, you miss more protests," said Liam Shy, one of the group.

Around the corner, on 17th Street, next to the Chevron station, the police had parked the two red, white, and blue decommissioned SamTrans busses they have been using to haul police reinforcements. Inside were about two-dozen cops, mainly from the narcotics squad. Most of the city's police divisions have been put out on the barricades, with as many as 1,500 of the city's 2,300 police on duty at one time.

One of the cops, Lieutenant Rick Parry, told his captain, Tim Hettrich, head of narcotics, that, "We got a ton of guys gotta take a leak and stuff."

"Just like your kids, you should have told them to go before they left the house," Hettrich responded.

Hettrich called the Castro protest a "piece of cake."

"This was very moderate, very meek," he said.

"Maybe they recognized us from the queer community," Rafael said, about the modest police response to the protest. Perhaps, she said, the police thought, "These are okay people, we'll cut them some slack."

"We had to make it clear to them that what we were doing was a bit different. We felt our responsibility was to make sure it was a safe place for people in the queer community to express their opposition to the war," Raphael said. ▼

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Erasure at Klübb



Klübb, the monthly party presented by Soundworks Music at the Endup, was the place to be last Saturday, March 22. A Mute Records release party was held for Erasure and tied to the first anniversary party for *Gloss* magazine. From left, Klübb resident DJ and nationally syndicated music columnist Marcus Purnell is joined by Andrew Bell of Erasure and *Gloss* publisher Bevin Shamel.

BOE reviews tax rules for gay couples

by Matthew S. Bajko

led by chairwoman and out lesbian Carole Migden, the Board of Equalization on Wednesday, March 26 dove head first into a tax quagmire affecting the state's more than 19,000 registered domestic partners.

The issue is how to grant the same property tax benefits straight couples receive when they wed to same-sex couples who can register as domestic partners, but under state law, are prohibited from marrying. Unlike their heterosexual counterparts, same-sex couples face daunting tax reassessments on their property when one partner dies.

Under state law, married cou-

ples receive a waiver on having their property reassessed when a spouse dies. Currently, San Francisco is the only city and county in the state to determine that domestic partners should receive the same equal treatment as straight married couples.

Since former city Assessor-Recorder Doris Ward enacted the tax ruling last fall, 12 people whose domestic partners have died have taken advantage of the city's decision not to reassess the property of gay and lesbian couples. Mabel Teng, the city's current assessor, not only has upheld the ruling but is fighting state tax lawyers who have tried to pressure her into rescinding it.

Sacramento showdown

The showdown landed in

Sacramento this week when Migden introduced a compromise measure that skirts San Francisco's ruling and directly addresses state tax laws governing reassessment of property. One change would affect regulations governing joint tenancies and ensure domestic partners who opt to hold property in such a manner would not be subjected to reappraisal until both partners die.

Under current tax rules, if one partner dies then the 50 percent of the property owned by the other partner is reappraised. In order to avoid this reappraisal, joint tenants must navigate through arcane and complicated steps which the proposed rule change would help simplify.

The second proposed change would add a specific exclusion for transfers occurring on the death of a domestic partner to a list of transfers that do not constitute a change in ownership. The rule change is predicated on former Assemblyman Fred Keeley's (D-Boulder Creek) bill AB2216 passed last year that states "... if a domestic partner dies without a will, trust, or other estate plan, the surviving domestic partner will inherit the deceased partner's separate property in the same manner as a surviving spouse."

With the state tax board meeting as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, Migden said on Tuesday, March 25 that she expected the board to form a working group over the next month to study the proposed changes. Once the rule changes are published by the

mained a serious concern.

"While I am pleased with this year's funding, it comes in the context of a war which will impact funding in the future," said Geanaracos, who works for Larkin Street Youth Services. "We have to be prepared for limited funding in the future."

And officials at agencies who receive funding through the Ryan White CARE Act said their enthusiasm for this year's funding is tempered by the fact it does not recoup the full amount of funding the council lost last year. The reductions in services due to that cut are just beginning to be felt at various agencies as the 2002-2003 contracts end.

"There was a massive change in the system clients are just now going to be learning about," said Jim Illig, who works for Project Open Hand and is president of the HIV/AIDS Provider Network. "There is definitely a cut to services. Those cuts were restored last year because of the supervisors who back filled one-third of the cuts and rollover money the council put toward the rest of the cuts."

With the city facing massive cuts due to an ever-growing budget deficit, agencies have little faith they can turn to the Board of Supervisors for help. Already, the city health department has proposed to slash nearly \$1 million in AIDS services from its budget. And the agencies impacted by the cuts, Shanti, the AIDS Health Project and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, could be just the first of many AIDS service providers to take a hit in their city funding this year.

"It is entirely reasonable to think there will be another round of HIV and AIDS services cuts in the mayor's budget. It is hard to know, but I would not be surprised at all if additional cuts are proposed," said Dana Van Gorder, director of public affairs at the AIDS foundation.

The mayor has asked the health department to present his office with a contingency plan for another \$27.3 million in cuts. So far, the Health Commission has resisted sending the mayor such a plan, even refusing to accept a contingency plan of \$16 million department officials had submitted. At its meeting on Tuesday, April 8 the commission is scheduled to once again address the issue.

"Right now they are not willing to see this contingency plan go forward," said James Loyce, the deputy director of health for AIDS programs. "The public health safety net would be devastated [by such cuts.] I don't want to send out an alarm but we are at code red." ▶

CARE money

◀ page 1

The grants to the 51 eligible metropolitan areas (EMAs), which include both formula and supplemental grants, are funded under Title I of the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) Act. Formula funds are awarded based on the estimated number of people living with AIDS in the city, and supplemental funds are awarded competitively among EMAs based on demonstration of severe need and other criteria.

"These grants help our most affected cities provide the high-quality HIV/AIDS care their residents desperately need, without diverting resources from other areas of their budgets," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said in announcing the grants. "President Bush and I will continue our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS at home and abroad through medical research, prevention activities, and providing access to treatment for those most in need."

Since fiscal year 1991, Congress has appropriated \$13.6 billion in CARE Act funding. Last year, Ryan White programs helped about 530,000 individuals access life-sustaining care and services.

Title I grants provide essential HIV/AIDS health care and a wide range of support services to those who lack or are only partially protected by health insurance. Covered services include physician visits, case management, assistance in obtaining medications, home-based and hospice care, substance abuse and mental health services, and other related services. A portion of the grant awards will fund the Minority AIDS Initiative to bolster care and services among minority populations.

Funding decrease

San Francisco's Minority AIDS Initiative did receive a funding decrease of nearly \$78,700 this year, and the CARE Council voted Monday night to use some of its extra supplemental funds to offset the reduced funding. After deciding to direct \$91,000 toward support staff, the CARE Council voted to distribute the remaining extra funds among nearly a dozen services ranging from primary care, emergency housing and food bank or delivered meals to residential programs, outpatient mental health and dental care programs.

As the council begins its planning process for the next fiscal year, council members stressed that funding for AIDS services re-



BOE Chair Carole Migden

board, the public has 45 days to comment and the tax board would then reexamine the issue at its June meeting.

Even before the issue had been taken up publicly at the board's meeting Wednesday, several assessors from Southern California — including San Diego and Los Angeles — had expressed their opposition to the proposals. Migden said that she expected more assessors to express disapproval with the rule changes but hoped to be able to resolve their concerns.

"We are not deterred. We are going to work with the assessors. It is best to create a uniformed point of view," said Migden. "We are on it and beginning to move to implementation. It is a process, it is time consuming, it is complex, but I have great expectations."

Supporting Migden's proposals is John Chiang, a member of the

tax board from Los Angeles. Chiang has called San Francisco's ruling flawed and said he believes the new rules the board is reviewing can be legally upheld.

"Under this perspective domestic partners should be entitled to the exclusion of property tax reappraisal upon passing of one of the two surviving partners," said Chiang.

Chiang said he favors this approach over San Francisco's ruling because it avoids the issue of stating gay couples are the same legally as a husband and wife. He said such reasoning could prompt a lawsuit from proponents of Proposition 22, which defined marriage as solely between a man and a woman and was approved by voters in March 2000.

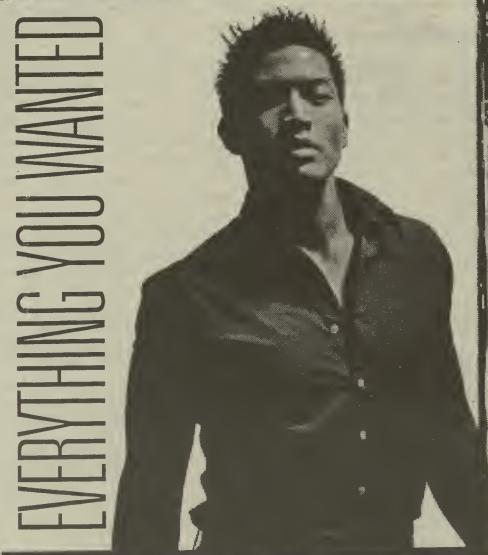
"The former assessor used interspousal exclusion which contemplated gay couples as husband and wife under the law, so you have to be a validly married couple and under Proposition 22 that is not recognized under the law," said Chiang.

Ron Chun, the deputy city assessor under Ward who wrote the city's ruling, said he disagrees with the tax board's reasoning. He does not see a reason for the city to rescind the ruling.

"We never said we created marriage status for same-sex domestic partners. We are not promoting marriage for same-sex couples, we are just saying they should get the same tax benefit," said Chun.

After reviewing the tax board's page 23 ▶

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APRIL 8

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Domestic partnership and your legal rights

by Travis Caulfield,
Law Clerk

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

We've received a number of letters concerning the new Assembly Bill 25 law. AB25 grants many new rights to gay and lesbian partners. Here are some of the letters we've received.

Dear ALRP:

I heard about the domestic partnership bill AB25. My partner has HIV and he would like me to legally adopt his daughter in case anything ever happens to him. Can I do this if we register for domestic partnership?

Sincerely,
Daughterless

Dear Daughterless:

You may be able to adopt your partner's daughter if you register for a domestic partnership. Registered domestic partners are permitted to use the same procedures used by step-parents to adopt a partner's children, subject to the consent of the partner with the child and any other individual with parental rights over the child. These procedures allow one partner to adopt the other partner's children so that both partners have a legally protected relationship with the children.

Dear ALRP:

My partner and I recently registered for a domestic partnership. Last month my partner was diagnosed with PCP pneumonia. He cannot speak and is confined to the hospital. What kind of medical rights do I have with respect to my partner after the passage of AB25? Does he still need a will?

Sincerely,
Worried about my rights

Dear Worried:

The passage of AB25 ensures that you will have many rights in caring for your ailing partner. These rights include the right to make medical decisions for your partner.

Dear ALRP:

If one of the registered domestic partners becomes physically or mentally incapacitated, the other partner has many options available to deal with the circumstances. A registered domestic

partner has the same rights as a spouse in making medical decisions for his or her partner if the partner becomes mentally or physically incapacitated. If one's partner is too incapacitated to file a claim for state disability, his or her domestic partner may file on behalf of the incapacitated partner. Finally, if one's registered domestic partner becomes incapacitated and needs a court-appointed conservator to handle finances and other private matters, the partner will be given the same priority in being appointed as a spouse.

Where there's a will

Even with these new rights, your partner should still draft a will that expresses his wish to leave his estate to you. Fortunately, AB25 has made this easier for both you and your partner. The new law allows you to use a simple will form. One's partner now need only check a box on a standard form for a simple will in order to leave his or her estate to a registered domestic partner.

Dear ALRP:

My registered domestic partner's status has gone from asymptomatic to disabling HIV and there just aren't any doctors qualified to treat him where we live in Barstow. He's gotten a job in San Francisco, which means I'll have to quit my job to relocate with him. Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

Sincerely,
Out of work

Dear Out:

The quick answer to your question is yes, you are eligible to receive unemployment. With the passage of AB25, if a registered domestic partner must quit work to accommodate his or her partner's job, the unemployed partner is eligible for unemployment benefits.

Additionally, AB25 confers a multitude of other employee benefits on registered domestic partners.

Additional perks

The law requires insurance companies that provide insurance for policyholders' spouses to provide insurance to policyholders' registered domestic partners and their children on the same terms as spouses. Furthermore, if a company has a policy allowing employees to use sick leave to care for their spouses or children, the employer must also allow gay and lesbian employees to use sick leave to

care for sick domestic partners and those partners' children. One final perk of AB25 is that health benefits received by registered domestic partners are no longer taxed as income by the state of California. Unfortunately, they are still taxed as income by the federal government.

Dear ALRP:

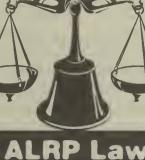
My partner and I are HIV-positive and want to register for a domestic partnership. We live together, but my name is not on the deed to his house because we were concerned it would affect my Medical eligibility. Does this mean we can't register?

Sincerely,
Homeless

Dear Homeless:

In order to register for domestic partner benefits, both partners must live together. This does not mean that either partner cannot own another residence or that both names must be on the deed or lease agreement. In addition to

the living together requirement, there are a few more requirements both partners must meet in order to register for a domestic partnership. For example, you both must agree to provide for each other's basic living expenses, such as housing and utilities. However, a registered domestic partner is not responsible for the other partner's debts. Additionally, neither partner can be married or in another domestic partnership, both partners must be 18 years of age or older, partners must be members of the same sex (or if not, one partner must be over the age of 62), partners cannot be related to each other in such a way that would prohibit an opposite sex couple from legally marrying in the state of California, and finally, both partners must be mentally capable of consenting to enter into a domestic partnership.



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How to register

You can get the "Declaration of Domestic Partnership" from the county clerk's office or from the secretary of state's office. You can

also download the form if you have Internet access at www.ss.ca.gov. The forms are also available at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.

Central Freeway

◀ page 1

along Octavia are both the LGBT Community Center and Rainbow Adult Community Housing. Situated at the corner of Octavia and Market streets, the new community center is overshadowed by the freeway structure, which blocks views of the building as people travel southwest on Market.

"The way the boulevard will be put together, and with the addition of trees, it will make Octavia Boulevard an even more attractive site and encourage more people to come to the center," said Brian Cheu, the center's outgoing executive director. "The land under the freeway now is fenced off. Ideally it will be filled with vibrant businesses and other enterprises with more people who will want to come by the center."

One of those new enterprises hoping to use land freed up by the freeway's removal is RACH, which hopes to build housing for senior members of the LGBT community. The organization has its eye on two parcels, only blocks away from the community center, on which it would like to build.

Members of the organization will be giving tours of the site on Sunday. And Mark Utterback, the agency's new executive director, is hoping to be on hand. Utterback, who is moving to San Francisco from Missouri, begins his new job on April 1.

Since last year the agency has been in talks with city and state officials about the land. Esperanza Macias, the agency's administrative director, said the project's viability depends on how the city determines to parcel out the land.

"We are interested in two parcels: O and P. They are adjoining parcels. One of our big hurdles is if we can bid on them together," said Macias. "We won't be able to do the project if we just get one."

It is projects like Rainbow housing that proponents of the freeway demolition had in mind as they fought to see their plan be approved during the 1990s.

"It will help knit upper Market and the Castro portion together with the rest of Market Street and

touches down on Market Street. Then the city will construct a ground-level boulevard along Octavia Street between Market and Fell streets to carry the nearly 40,000 vehicles a day that now use the Fell Street ramp.

"I am happy we don't worship speed and traffic but still value neighborhood livability and transit," said Radulovich, who represented the Castro on the advisory group and served as a spokesman during the various proposition campaigns. "It is great to know we are still different from other places and leaders in making our city livable and beautiful."

Once completed, motorists will enter and exit the new freeway ramp via the new Octavia Boulevard. The reconfigured streets will deposit those same motorists directly in front of the community center.

"All the people zooming by above the center will now be driving right by the center. It will give us great exposure," said Cheu.

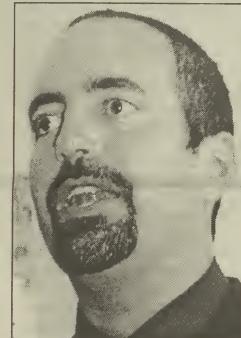
And center officials hope the new street plan will also improve the vitality of the surrounding areas. Currently the mid-Market area can seem cut off from the rest of the street due to the freeway looming overhead.

"We have seen that area improving with the addition of the center and various restaurants and businesses," said Scott Wiener, co-chair of the center's board. "That will advance that process as the mid-Market area improves and becomes more vibrant. The center will benefit from that greatly."

Along with the center, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, Transportation for a Livable Community, and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition are sponsoring Sunday's celebration of the freeway's demolition. The event will take place from 1-5 p.m. at the corner of Market and Octavia streets.

Along with a ceremonial whack with a golden sledgehammer, and speeches from local officials, there will be food and live entertainment.

"I have a piece of the Berlin Wall at home. Certainly I will put my piece of the Central Freeway next to it," said Radulovich. ▼



Tom Radulovich

keep that vitality moving down," said Tom Radulovich, an openly gay BART board member who has pushed for the new boulevard plan for more than 10 years. "Secondly, Hayes Valley and areas around there are dense residential neighborhoods. This will improve their quality of life and create acres of new land."

Long, hard fight

It wasn't an easy fight to win. In 1993, city officials established the Central Freeway Task Force in order to determine what should be done to the freeway, which had been damaged during the 1989 earthquake. The advisory panel recommended in 1995 that the city should tear down the structure.

Nothing ever came of the panel's report, and eventually residents of the western side of town - who favored rebuilding the freeway - put Proposition H on the ballot in 1997. The proposal narrowly passed.

The following year opponents of that plan put another proposal before voters. This time, voters approved Proposition E, which called on the city to demolish the Central Freeway. In 1999, the issue to retrofit the freeway went before voters a second time and was defeated.

Now four years later the plan to tear down the freeway is finally being implemented. The first phase calls for Caltrans to replace the Fell Street ramp with one that

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OBITUARIES

Brian Clearwater



Brian Clearwater died at his home in San Francisco, February 24, 2003, at the age of 49; the cause of death was pulmonary embolism. Brian is survived by brothers Dan and Marc Clearwater and sister Lisa Gendotti, brother-in-law Kirk Gendotti, three nephews and one niece, and partner of five years Jacob Wolfe. Brian was a native of San Francisco and was employed by the Supreme Court of California for 19 years. As the calendar coordinator, Brian was responsible for

handling voluminous paperwork and scheduling cases; he also coordinated communications between the justices. Brian possessed a quick, brilliant, and discerning wit, but he was always respectful. Brian was a kind, gentle, and unselfish man, leaving a positive effect on all those who made his acquaintance. Brian was an enthusiastic fan of the Forty-niners, the San Francisco Giants, figure skating, and professional tennis. He had an appreciation for literature and was well read. His home interests included gardening (he gained much satisfaction from his rose garden) and baking; his pies and cakes were a source of pride. Brian's greatest passion was for attending theater in San Francisco, New York City, and London's West End; Brian and Jacob made regular trips to

New York City to attend Broadway shows. Brian was an expert in film history, often amazing friends with his breadth of knowledge. Brian and Jacob shared a love for travel, making annual visits to Europe, Amsterdam and Paris were favorite destinations.

Services were held February 28. On March 12, Chief Justice Ronald M. George entered remarks in memory of Brian upon the minutes of the Supreme Court, to be published in the Official Reports of the opinions of the court. On March 13, a remembrance was hosted by the staff of the Supreme Court, with Chief Justice George and Court Administrator and Clerk Fritz Ohlrich offering a review of Brian's service to the court.

A celebration of Brian's life will be observed on Saturday, April 5, from 1

p.m. to 3 p.m. RSVP: 415-821-1260.

Robert (Bob) Corti
October 29, 1951 — March 12, 2003

Bob Corti passed away March 12, 2003 from complications of AIDS. At his side was his partner, George Taylor, and their beloved dog Canzoli. Bob was born in Manhattan, NY and moved to San Francisco in 1978. Bob was actively involved in the local art community, a grant recipient of Visual Aid, and artist

in the Positive Art Program. Bob was artist-in-residence at the Derek Silva Community, where he taught multimedia. Bob's creativity sustained him through many difficult times in his life and he had the rare gift to nurture this same creative energy within others.

Bob is also survived by sister Virginia Rosenburg and family, Smithtown, NY, sister Christina Ratzken and family, Fairfield, CT, and aunt Eleanor Hayes and family, Terra Linda CA.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of Bob's life Saturday, March 29, 2003, 2 p.m., at the Swedish-American Hall, 2174 Market St., SF.

Eternal gratitude is expressed to the staff, volunteers and residents of Maitri for making Bob's final days comfortable and full of caring. Contributions in Bob's memory can be made to Maitri Compassionate Care, 401 Duboce Ave., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Rest in peace my beloved. We love you and will miss you.

Robert T. McCann
(Uncle Robert)

April 16, 1923 — December 8, 2002



Bob moved to San Francisco from Chicago, Illinois in the early 1950s. He stayed at the Golden Gate YMCA, where I, Eddie Jay, met him shortly after I moved to San Francisco. He was employed by Brooks Brothers for approximately 40 years.

Bob's first book of poems, *En el Jardin de los Nopales*, was published in 1977 and his work has been published in several literary and political journals and anthologies. His final collection of poems and collages, *Skyboat*, is scheduled for release later this year.

Mr. Burk is most well-known in the community for a September 1996 protest in which he dumped soiled cat litter on the head of San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen during a political candidates forum. Mr. Burk was protesting what he saw as Christen's excessive salary and SFAF's inadequate funding of services for people with AIDS. Mr. Burk also participated in storming SFAF's offices in 2000, which led to a restraining order and a community service sentence. In addition, Mr. Burk joined others from ACT UP/SF and the AIDS Accountability Project in criticizing funding of AIDS organizations, challenging Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), and former "AIDS czar" Sandra Thurman. He also confronted Dr. David Ho, who in the late 1990s urged that people with HIV should begin early treatment with what ACT UP/SF charged were toxic drugs.

Mr. Burk is survived by his mother, Frances Serda Burk, and three brothers, Donnie, Kenny, and Steve. A memorial service will be held on April 1 — his birthday — at 7 p.m. at Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street. ▼

Our friend died of complications from metastatic prostate cancer. He was 79 years old. He didn't want a memorial.

We had a moment of silence on the occasion of one of our birthday luncheons, in his memory.

Artist and dissident AIDS activist Ronnie Burk dies

by Liz Highleyman

Ronnie Burk, an artist and controversial dissident AIDS activist, died March 12. His death followed a series of strokes last summer that left him partially paralyzed, friends said. Mr. Burk had moved to New York City a year ago, but returned to San Francisco in January. He died at his home in the company of friends and family. He was 47.

Mr. Burk was born in Sinton, Texas. He studied Buddhist philosophy with Allen Ginsberg at the Naropa Institute in Colorado in the 1970s, and in the 1980s was active in the New York poetry and art scene, organizing a poetry reading series at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. He moved to San Francisco in the early 1990s.

In 1996 Burk joined ACT UP/San Francisco, a dissident AIDS activist group that resulted from the split of the original ACT



Ronnie Burk in January 2001

UP/SF in 1991. Members of one splinter group (which retained the ACT UP/SF name) later came to question whether HIV causes AIDS, while the other — first known as ACT UP/Golden Gate, and since the late 1990s as Survive AIDS to distance itself from ACT UP/SF — maintained a focus on HIV/AIDS treatment.

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Of mixed Chicano, Native American, and Caucasian heritage, Mr. Burk was active in the fight against racism and its daily ramifications in the lives of people of color. Interested in the evolution of the left, he cultivated relationships with former members of the Black Panther Party and the Weather Underground. He also advocated for medical marijuana and was a pen pal to numerous political prisoners.

Mr. Burk's first book of poems, *En el Jardin de los Nopales*, was published in 1977 and his work has been published in several literary and political journals and anthologies. His final collection of poems and collages, *Skyboat*, is scheduled for release later this year.

Mr. Burk is survived by his mother, Frances Serda Burk, and three brothers, Donnie, Kenny, and Steve. A memorial service will be held on April 1 — his birthday — at 7 p.m. at Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th Street. ▼

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Neptune Society of Northern California

Walk the walk

by Jim Provenzano

As the number of antiwar protesters taking to the streets have dwindled, some continue to walk for peace. Others at the Oscars on Sunday walked the red carpet in acknowledgment, vocal defiance, or denial, of the cruel realities in Iraq.

In Montreal last week, fans booed during the playing of the U.S. national anthem before the New York Islanders' 6-3 victory over the Montreal Canadiens.

The sell-out crowd of more than 20,000 at Bell Centre was asked to "show your support and respect for two great nations" before the singing of the American and Canadian national anthems.

Instead, Canadians showed their displeasure with Bush's war for oil, er, against Iraq. More than 200,000 people walked in an antiwar demonstration in Montreal a week before.

People the world over march for peace. Soon, more families of American soldiers will be walking to funeral homes. Bush, Cheney, and his pals at Halliburton will be

walking, if not gleefully skipping, to the bank.

Okay, enough forced contextualization.

These feet were made for walkin'

Here, and months ago in Sydney, local athletes won honors and continue to achieve success in the seemingly simple yet demanding sport of race walking.

In a race walk, you have to keep a certain form. There are six judges on the course checking your form as you go by. If you get three calls from judges for bent knees, you're out. Your leg has to be straight as your heel touches the track.

Maintaining form is the hard thing in this oddly waddling track sport, because the judges can see from all angles.

"It's a little more strenuous than just running, but it's less impactive," said multiple medalist Jon Borset.

"It's actually the most efficient way to walk with speed," he added. "There's a natural tendency for people to bend their knees, thinking they're absorbing the shock."

Borset started in 1988. He works out regularly with Frontrunners, and belongs to the Golden Gate Race Walkers, a mixed group of over-50 race walkers.

Despite his years of experience, his competition in Sydney was one of the more professionally run events.

"In a regular race with a club, everyone's observant, but I didn't expect so many disqualifications," he said.

Borset had trained for the marathon as well. "But when I got there," he said, "because of the heat, the medical personnel refused to take responsibility. They had to restrict time limit or cancel it, so I took the half marathon."

He won the silver in the 70-75 age group, coming in at a time of 2:51, mentioning that he'd been slowed down a bit with a foot injury. "But I'm always conscious of my time and trying to improve."

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Borset moved to New York. After a 1956 visit to San

Francisco, he made it his home.

"There was already a gay community," he recalled. "New York was great, but San Francisco was like heaven, with a lot of guys coming back from the military. Word got around that San Francisco was a great environment, so people just flocked here. It was one big party. The 1960s were fabulous."



Jon Borset in Sydney



Garland Murphy walks for gold.

said.

He took a course, then joined a club. "One thing led to another, and I started competing locally."

Now he's going to national and regional competitions, and trains with the Golden Gate Race Walkers and the Marin Race Walkers. Most events are held in spring and summer.

Murphy's next major competition is the World Masters Track & Field Championships held in July in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. National Masters in August in Eugene, Oregon.

Such events are few. "Mostly it's not a big sport in the states," said Murphy. "Internationally, it's a lot more popular in Europe. The top walkers are from South America and Eastern Europe."

Murphy competes mostly against straight people, saying that there aren't too many gay race walkers, despite some misconceptions.

"Most people think of race walking as kind of a sissy sport, but it requires a lot of technique," he said. "You have to walk according to USA Track & Field rules. It's a fine line between running and walking."

The budget analyst and accountant for the San Francisco Housing Authority finds the time to commit to competitions.

"Track and field runners get a lot more sponsorships and publicity, so it's easy for a top level track star to get support. But for race

walkers, it's all your expense."

Since Sydney was his first Games, Murphy focused on his mid-week events, saving the opportunity to bask in his accomplishments for after winning.

"You had to keep focused," he said. "I had no idea who my other competition would be." Yet the celebrations were meaningful as well.

"The biggest feeling of joy and pride of being gay is the reception we got from the crowd and spectators walking into the stadium. I also really appreciated the praise I got from other track team members."

Info: <http://home.inreach.com/wheeler/ggrw/home.html> and at www.sfrontrunners.org.

And the winner is ...

A quick tabulation from the Team Tsunami fundraiser folks for their Oscar party reports an estimated \$4,000 from ticket sales and the silent auction. Congratulations to all the fundraisers and swimmers. Proceeds go to their IGLA swim meet in August at Stanford, and are given to other local charities. Info: www.sftsunami.org.

Foot in the door

The Shockwaves flag football team continues to have scrimmages each Saturday, and their ranks of players are growing.

On Sunday, April 6, Sports4Good is holding a 6-on-6 flag football tournament on Treasure Island.

The women's team practices at Dolores Park on Saturdays, sharing the field with the men's squads at 11 a.m.

The Shockwaves will host the Gay Super Bowl April 26-27. Teams from Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Diego will be coming to town to play in the second annual event. That should be a big football festival!

Info: www.sports4good.org and www.sfshockwaves.com.

Stiff competition

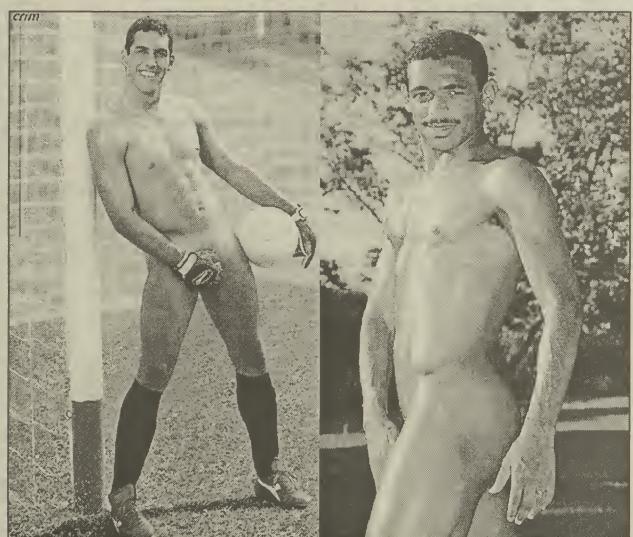
The final game of this year's São Paulo state soccer championship finished last week. What was most amusing for gay fans is that each side had a player who had posed nude for G, the gay Brazilian magazine.

Corinthians had Vampeta, and São Paulo Futebol Club had Roger. The Corinthians won. ▼

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Brazil's best: Roger de Noronha Silva, left, and Marco Vampeta expose their big talents.

CLASSIFIEDS

Hate crime

◀ page 5

the event for their violent behavior. On the way out, and after spewing racial and homophobic slurs at the security guard and patrons, the woman leapt and punched [the victim], who was standing by the door, in the mouth."

The victim asked not to be identified when contacted by the Bay Area Reporter last year.

According to Gomez, the victim followed the woman – later identified as Earl – outside to confront her, and was accompanied by a friend. Once outside, Broughton – described as 6 feet 4 inches tall and weighing more than 200 pounds – reportedly came up from behind the victim and punched her in the side of the head, cutting her face open. The victim was knocked unconscious, and Broughton allegedly started kicking her in the head and neck as she lay on the ground. The victim's friend attempted to intervene but was also punched by Broughton, who left with Earl and headed toward the Eagle Tavern.

Thursday's preliminary hearing will determine whether there is enough evidence for Broughton

to stand trial on the charges. Because there is always a chance that such charges can be reduced, friends of the victim are encouraging the community to dedicate a small amount of time to "show the judge that we are invested, and strongly encourage [the judge] to recognize this crime as aggravated assault based in racial, misogynist, and homophobic hate," according to Gomez.

"It's critically important that all forms of bias crimes are prosecuted with the hate crime enhancement," echoed a statement from Community United Against Violence. "Inclusion of the hate crime enhancement sends a specific public message that holds the perpetrators of discrimination and intolerance accountable by naming the violence they have committed publicly."

CUAV has called for individuals, groups, and social justice organizations to join them in court for Broughton's hearing on Thursday, April 3, and again for Earl's misdemeanor hearing on Monday, April 14. Additionally, more witnesses are always helpful, so those who may have seen something but have not yet come forward are encouraged to do so. For more information, call (415) 777-5500, extension 304. ▼

Tax rules

◀ page 19

proposals, Chun said that the changes appear to cover straight, elderly domestic partners and questioned whether the rules would impact gay domestic partners. And he also said that unlike the city's ruling which is fairly easy to understand, the tax board's proposals will confound the average person.

"The average guy on the street is not going to be able to figure this out. If you can't understand it, it is too complicated," he said. "But it is a good start and a good thing we are starting to look at this. But does it directly deal with the situation? No."

"I haven't seen a reason why it should overrule Doris Ward's ruling," he added.

Neither does Teng, who said she is not only steadfast in supporting the ruling but is actively working to strengthen it. She has formed an ad hoc committee with tax lawyers and members of the LGBT com-

munity to review the issue.

Teng said her panel is looking at issues surrounding when domestic partners are co-owners of a property and also in the case of the dissolution of that partnership, how the city will tax the property.

"We are looking at if they can divide up the property or pass on the property without triggering the assessment," she said.

As for the tax board's proposals, Teng said she is in full support of the changes and expressed disappointment that other assessors are fighting the proposals.

"I think [the changes] are progressive and positive and should be supported. I am tremendously disappointed of the decision of certain assessors to oppose it," Teng said.

As for the city's ruling, Teng said her department is enforcing it and has yet to hear from the tax board's lawyers since their first letter asking the city to suspend the ruling late last year.

"I think no news is good news," Teng said. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CMC-3-540621

In the Matter of the Application of Elizabeth Nicloff Baum For change of Name. The application of Elizabeth Nicloff Baum for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Nicloff Baum has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Nicloff Barrett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of April at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CMC-3-540639

In the Matter of the Application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark For change of Name. The application of Kirsten Maria Konigsmark for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kirsten Maria Konigsmark has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kirsten Maria Riccardi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-03540598

In the Matter of the Application of Laura Gay Rauch For change of Name. The application of Laura Gay Rauch for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Laura Gay Rauch has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Laura Rauch. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of April at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265024-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Foolsbury Theater, 3529 21st Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117-3026. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ben Yalom, Artist Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/04/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265111-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Z- Club Radio Control Cars And Accessories, 239 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed J. McGrath, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 20, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265051-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: JayMay Association, 388 Beale Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by co-partners signed William J. Clark and Lish N. May. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 03, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265258-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Conscious Chiropractic & Acupuncture, 220 Montgomery Ste. 305 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amy Michelle Paris, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 12, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/2003.

MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APR. 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265045-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Z- Club Radio Control Cars And Accessories, 239 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Derek Chu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/04/2003.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following uncheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated.

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

MATERNAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH BOARD - The Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Board consists of no less than 15 nor more than 30 members, all of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors as follows: Supervisors make one nomination each. The remainder of the members, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, shall reflect the following: individuals or parents of children eligible for health services; representative from health professions; organizations dealing with maternal, child, and adolescent health; school health representative; members of existing local groups advisory to maternal, child, and adolescent health programs in the jurisdiction; and other individuals interested in the health of mothers and children. Both consumers and providers of services shall be represented. Consumers are considered to be non-providers and should constitute no less than 1/3 of the Board.

Each member shall designate an alternate with qualifications similar to that of the member. This alternate will have all of the duties and responsibilities of the member. The alternate member may not serve if the regular member is present. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed.

The objective of the Board is to advise the governing body on local programs and services affecting the health of mothers, children and adolescents. The duties and responsibilities are stated in the By-laws.

LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board consists of thirty-four voting members.

The Board of Supervisors appoints eleven voting members which consists of the following: two from homeless or formerly homeless population; two from area of Advocacy; three service providers; one from the Business community; one from Education and Training; one representing a Foundation; one representing labor.

The Mayor appoints seventeen voting members which consists of the following: three from homeless or formerly homeless population; two from area of Advocacy; two service providers; one from the Business community; two from Education and Training; five from activist in neighborhood/communities; one representing non-profit housing; one representing the Criminal Justice System.

The following departments shall make one appointment each: Public Health, Health Services, Mayor's Office of Homelessness, Mayor's Office of Community Development, Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Family Services; Commission on Aging.

Members serving on the Board are limited to two consecutive terms.

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Water Efficient Toilets for \$10 Sale on Saturday, April 5 at the Crocker-Amazon Recreation Center's Parking Lot, Moscow and Geneva from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will be selling high quality, 1.6 gallon per flush toilets for only \$10 for owners of single-family homes and apartment buildings in San Francisco. These must be a water efficient affidavit on file for the home's or building's water bill. For more information, call 923-2478.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 0265290-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Fresh Catch 24 Willie Mays Plaza San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Michael Collins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540644

In the Matter of the Application of Carole Ann Renselaer For Change of Name. The application of Carole Ann Renselaer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that his/her name be changed to Carole Renselaer Moore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC CNC-03-540644

In the Matter of the Application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus For Change of Name. The application of Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jamey Holly Rogers Jacobus has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jamey Jacobus Moore. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265399-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Shears 4974 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rosa R. Metcal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/19/2003.

MAR. 27, APR. 3, 10, 17, 2003

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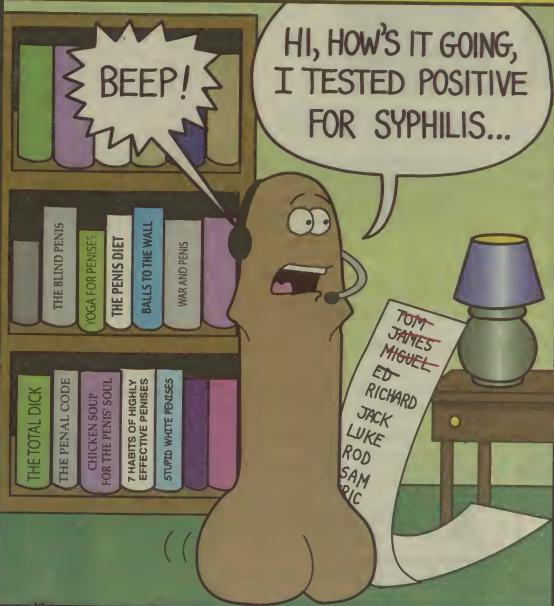
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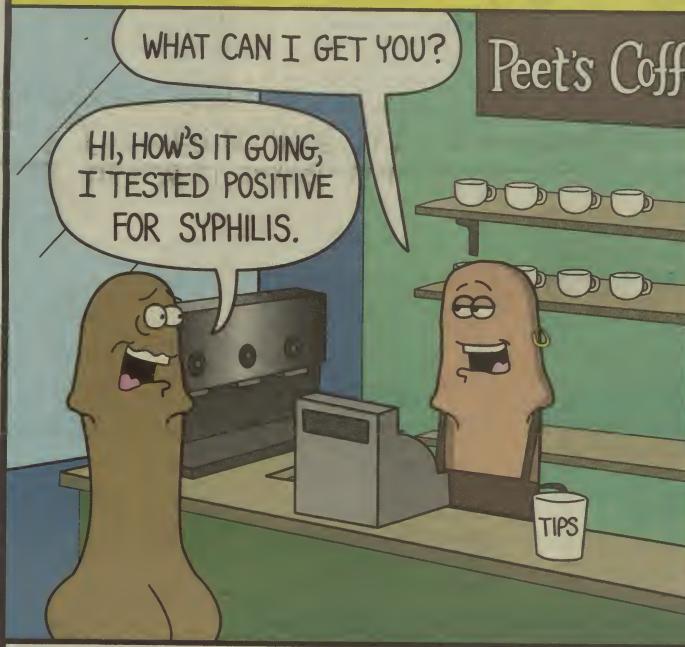
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Art during wartime

Antiwar passions of Frank Lobdell in paintings, works on paper at the Legion.

page 37

As wide as you want

'Wide Wide Screen' series continues at the Castro.

page 31

**Hetero overboard**

Cuba Gooding, Jr. takes homophobic 'Boat Trip.'

page 33



BAYAREADER REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 13 • 27 March 2003

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Girl power

by Brandon Judell

Director Gurinder Chadha on how to *Bend It Like Beckham*



avid Beckham is a British national hero for his soccer playing. If I'm correct, he's even married to a Spice Girl.

Teener Jess Bhamra (Parminder Nagra), a young woman living at home with her very traditional Indian parents, has posters of this superstar all over her bedroom, but not because she has any romantic feelings for him. Jess wants to be David. She wants to be a soccer player. When kicking a ball, she comes alive. But she has to do so on the sly. Her folks would rather have her in the kitchen, learning to cook up exotic, spicy dishes for her future spouse.

But suddenly, the girl's dreams might just come true. A beautiful young woman with short hair, Jules Paxton (Keira Knightley), discovers Jess playing in the local park, and soon Jess is playing on her team. Will this make Jess' Ma and Pa happy? Not for a second.

Will it, however, make lesbians the world over gleeful to be able to watch strong, self-composed women kicking up a storm and having fun in locker rooms? You bet.

Both comically and spiritually, *Bend It Like Beckham* is sort of a sporty Indian take on *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. There's even nuptials where the comic high point is two young women being mistakenly accused of lesbianism. It's handled terrifically.

That's not a surprise, because British director Gurinder Chadha, a Punjabi born in Kenya, has dealt with girl-on-girl matters before. In her *Bhaji on the Beach* and *What's Cooking?*, the subject has reared its lovely head. But then, lesbianism is part of Chadha's daily life. As she noted to me when *Cooking* opened, "My godson in London was born out of a lesbian mom and a donor. Actually, her girlfriend's brother was the donor. Hamish the boy's called. I have a very strong bond with him. He's like my son basically, and in a funny sort of way, me and my husband act as sort of the 'normal' couple in amongst all his wonderful sort of extended family of various girlfriends and lesbian couples and gay couples and whatever."

"For Hamish," she continued, "it's totally normal, this kind of, 'Well, yeah, guys can be with guys, and girls can be with girls.' You can imagine him actually thinking, 'Well, Gurinder's a bit different because she's with a guy, but I don't really mind.'"

Musical Jane

Sadly, Gurinder's extremely busy now and has less time for little Hamish, especially since *Bend It Like Beckham* opened in England and broke all box office records over there. I was lucky to catch-up with her in Fox Searchlight's Manhattan offices last week because, attired in a tasteful pants suit, she was split between publicizing *Bend It's American*

page 36 ►

Strange embedfellow

Scribes and soldiers; mayhem and movie trophies

by Roberto Friedman

Suddenly last week we were plunged into the world of shock and awe, of **Saddam** wearing goofy glasses and reading from a steno pad, of sordid sorties, and **Kurdish peshmergas** acting **meshuginah** on the Northern Front. But despite our best efforts, we just could not get the OK from the Pentagon for a correspondent from the *Bay Area Reporter* to go get embedded with the troops. We wonder why the war department turned us down.

We bet there are a whole lot of horny Marines in the Iraqi desert who could sure use a good embedding buddy right now, but they're stuck with the likes of ABC News' **Ted Koppel**, who looks more and more like a Muppet every time we see him pop out of



a tank in his camouflage chem-suit. War, the latest Reality TV series: now, that's entertainment for the whole family!

But no one looks more awkward than a Hollywood celebrity trying to affect *gravitas*, which is the impression left by presenters and awardees at last Sunday's Academy Awards. Movie stars were left with the prospect of thanking their agents for getting them cast in the latest potboiler while the US military was bombing the bejusus out of Baghdad

in our name. Something wrong with this picture?

The way things were going, we thought the only celebs who would show up at the Kodak Theatre were ambiguously gay **Kevin Spacey** and everyone's fave pioneer, **Halle Berry**, dressed in burlap. But the Hollywood pack showed up after all, cowed into

submission. Those given airtime, if they referred to the war at all, said something innocuous like, "Let's bring the troops home soon."

The exception, of course, was filmmaker **Michael Moore**, who, awarded Best Documentary Feature for *Bowling for Columbine*, lashed out appropriately. "We live in fictitious times, with fictitious election results that elect the fictitious President. We have a man sending us to war for fictitious reasons." Over boozing from the brainwashed, Moore spoke truth to power: "Shame on you, Mr. Bush! Anytime you got the Pope and the *Dixie Chicks* against you, your time is up!"



Mark Feldman

Martin gets head from Gay Mafia.

Even host **Steve Martin** was subdued, although he was clever in bringing up last year's **Gay Mafia** tempest-in-a-teapot. "Hey fellas, don't get your thongs in a knot! I used the term 'Gay Mafia' last week, and the next morning, I woke up to find a poodle head in my bed!"

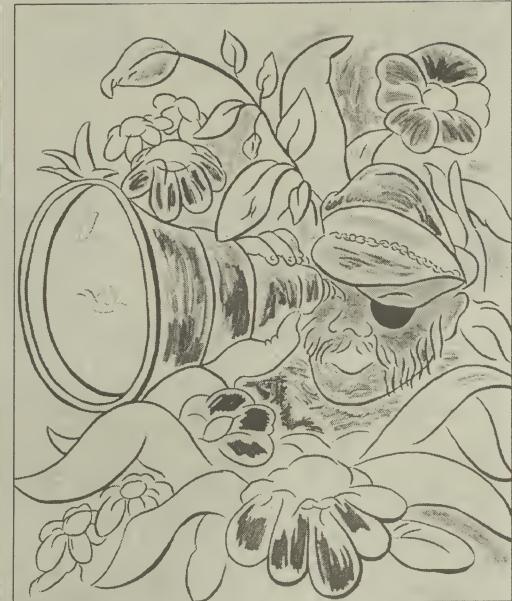


Adrien Brody knows about the dehumanization of war.

The other true Oscar highlight was first-time nominee **Adrien Brody** nabbing the Best Actor trophy for his brilliant performance in **Roman Polanski's** Holocaust drama *The Pianist*. Making the film, said Brody, "made me realize the sadness and dehumanization of war."

Kudos also to gay Spanish director **Pedro Almodóvar**, who won the gilded eunuch for his screenplay for *Talk to Her* (a truly perfect movie) and gave a shout out to "all the people raising their voices in respect of peace, human rights, and international legality."

Picture = 1,000 wars
For two nights this coming



Collection of Jonathan Greenberg

A Watchful Eye, by John Bankston, from 2002 SECA Art Award catalog

connection.

Also on exhibit painter **Andrea Higgins'** series *The Presidents' Wives*, painstaking oils based on patterns in the wardrobe fabrics of the First Ladies; and snapshot-like photographs and videos by **Will Rogan**. Through July 27 at SFMOMA.

While at the modern museum, don't miss *A Passion for Paul Klee: The Djerassi Collection at SFMOMA*, the first time all 140 works by the Swiss artist from the collection of **Dr. Carl Djerassi**, father of the birth-control pill, have been shown at once.

Klee is seen here at his most intimate ("You have to stick your nose into each artwork," advised Dr. Djerassi at the press launch) and most diverse, represented by portraits and abstractions, landscapes and figurative works. "He was polygamous," said Dr. D., referring to Klee's versatility.

Although selections from the museum's Klee holdings have been continuously rotated in a small gallery since their acquisition, their benefactor noted that SFMOMA's hometown newspaper, the *SF Conical*, had only seen fit to give them coverage once — in 1984, when a few Klee's were stolen ("the thief had great taste") and recovered the next day at the bus station. For a blind spot this big, Djerassi suggested, "the *Chronicle* ought to be embarrassed?" Through June 8, 151 3rd St. Info: 357-4000.

All that jazz

Thanks to SFJAZZ for inviting OT to their *Latin New York: Salsa Dance Party* last Sat. night at **Bill Graham** Civic Auditorium. We thrilled to the music of **Eddie Palmieri, India, and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra**, led by **Oscar Hernandez**. But our fave moment came during salsa lessons in the VIP lounge, when, spotting OT ready to move with our date **Pepi**, the salsa instructor had to stop addressing her coupled students as "ladies and gentlemen" in favor of "followers and leaders." Better than "catchers and pitchers," we guess. SFJAZZ spring season continues through June 13; info at www.sfjazz.org.

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FILM

The Swingin' '60s are back

More 'Wide Screen' series at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Audrey Hepburn and Peter O'Toole are showcased in the third and final batch of films from the 1960s in this year's *Wide, Wide Screen* series at the Castro, which starts with a sing-along *West Side Story* (1961).

The great Leonard Bernstein-Stephen Sondheim musical looks terrific, and Jerome Robbins' dances are among the most exciting ever filmed. Natalie Wood (dubbed by Marni Nixon) is a radiant if demure Maria, and Richard Beymer is a sincere if not dynamic Tony. Supporting Oscar winners Rita Moreno and George Chakiris bring the requisite passion to their roles and steal the movie. The film won nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture. (3/27)

O'Toole stars in Richard Brooks' searing adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* (1965). As the guilt-ridden but ultimately noble seaman determined to save native peoples from a corrupt warlord and greedy British businessmen, O'Toole is quite moving. The great James Mason, Jack Hawkins and Curt Jurgens provide excellent support. Set and shot in Southeast Asia. (3/28-29)

The impact of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: *A Space Odyssey* (1968) on subsequent movies cannot be overstated, and it must be seen on a wide screen to be appreciated. Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood are the astronauts confronted with HAL, the computer who is determined to stay alive. (3/30-31)



Hepburn ('67) shows her full range.

Hepburn and Albert Finney are *Two for the Road* (1967), Stanley Donen's dazzling, bittersweet look at a marriage through the years. Showing the full range of her remarkable abilities, Hepburn ages from smitten schoolgirl to disillusioned matron. Finney lacks the charm to make his character as engaging as it should be, but he is totally believable as a man who would deliberately hurt her, a true brute. Shot primarily in the South of France, Hepburn opted not to use Givenchy for her clothes, preferring several contemporary designers, and her wardrobe looks dated, although very '60s. Hepburn and O'Toole plot *How To Steal a Million* (1966), William Wyler's hilarious homage to screwball comedy. She's the daughter of master forger Hugh Griffith, and he's an insurance investigator. They're determined to steal her father's fake "Cellini Venus" from a Paris museum. Watching the two stars fall in love is a joy; O'Toole was never sexier. With Charles Boyer, and Eli Wallach as an avaricious American collector. (4/1)

Schell games

Director J. Lee Thompson's *Re-*

turn from the Ashes (1965) stars Maximilian Schell as a vicious killer in Nazi-occupied Paris in this unusual thriller about mistaken identity and survival. Ingrid Thulin and Samantha Eggar co-star. It's teamed with Tony Richardson's version of Jean Genet's *Mademoiselle* (1966), with Jeanne Moreau as a rural schoolteacher who is awakened sexually. Marguerite Duras wrote the numbing screenplay. Moreau does her best, but neither she nor Richardson can overcome Duras' inability to create excitement onscreen. A colossal failure when released, it nearly killed Moreau's chances for major international stardom. (4/2)

sense all around her. A pretty if vapid John Phillip Law is the object of her affections. Directed by her then-husband, Roger Vadim, the discoverer of Brigitte Bardot.

Casino Royale (1968) is one of the decade's worst. This spoof of James Bond films has a foppish David Niven as the true 007, living in happy retirement in one of the Stately Homes of England. John Huston is a Scottish M, who, joined by William Holden, Charles Boyer and Kurt Kasznar, forces him to return to active service. This dire mess also wastes Peter Sellers, Woody Allen and Orson Welles. The original Bond girl, Ursula Andress, looks bored, as if waiting for Sean Connery to show up. She's not alone. Only Deborah Kerr, as M's horny Scottish widow, demanding that Bond "diddle" her as tradition demands, survives the debacle. With a young Jacqueline Bisset, billed as "Jacky." Burt Bacharach wrote the lively score. Huston was among the many directors. (4/3) ▼



Peter O'Toole (1966) stars in a searing adaptation of Conrad's *Lord Jim*.

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Cypress blossoms



The San Francisco-based Cypress String Quartet's fourth annual Call & Response concert (Friday night at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum) includes the world premiere of a new string quartet by lesbian American composer Jennifer Higdon. The quartet will play the only string quartets composed by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel, followed by Higdon's string quartet, based in some aspects on the program's first two works.

Cypress String Quartet are: Cecily Ward and Tom Stone, violins; Ethan Filner, viola; and Jennifer Kloetzel, cello. The concert takes place on Fri., March 28, 7:30 p.m. at YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. Tickets (\$12): call (415) 978-2787. Pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m., reception follows. Information on concerts in Berkeley, Burlingame and San Rafael: www.cypressquartet.com.

Annihilating angel

Theatre Rhino's 'Strangers in Paradox'

by Richard Dodds

For those who know little about transgender icon Kate Bornstein and her self-proclaimed demons, *Strangers in Paradox* may be more of a mystery than it's intended to be. The pieces in this unusual and occasionally unsettling jigsaw of a play do finally come together, but not before challenging audiences with a bloodily surreal approach that defies the usual notions of entertainment.

This is a play in which death is viewed as a sensuous act, something to be shared by those providing it to desperate souls aching for release. The subtitle of this world premiere at Theatre Rhino is *The True Story of Casey and the Kidd*, and these eponymous lesbian lovers — one butch, one femme — are notorious serial killers who become jealous whenever one commits a murder without the other. But when they do pull one off together, it's all hugs and kisses and baby talk. They call themselves "agents of karma."

Before long we realize that Casey and the Kidd in fact are elements in the complex consciousness of another character, Angel, who is the last remaining resident in an asylum for the criminally insane. Without any access to the outside world, Angel knows the details of every murder and displays the wounds of every victim. Despite the violence, often accompanied by excesses of stage blood and gunfire, the play actually has something of happy ending as the asylum discharges its final patient.

Even though the facts have been filtered through allegory, Bornstein has said in interviews that *Strangers in Paradox* is her most autobiographical play. The 55-year-old Bornstein, who grew up a boy and tried to live heterosexually as a man, underwent gender reassignment surgery in 1986. But the sense of gender dissatisfaction has continued, along with



Lesbian serial killers are part of the mix in Kate Bornstein's play.

such esteem issues as bulimia, anorexia, and cutting, and all are discussed in the play.

It may come as a surprise that the play contains a fair amount of humor, much of it mordant but still a welcome respite. "I'm an over-achiever," says Casey when she reveals she has dealt with both anorexia and bulimia. The Kidd criticizes her not for these self-destructive practices, but for choosing "a girly-girl way to kill yourself."

Director Russell Blackwood has staged the dense, dark, and often morphing material with as much clarity as may be possible. The 90-minute production also benefits from a competent cast that includes two standout performances.

As Angel, the empathetic asylum tenant, Mary Knoll provides an electric performance that brings together bug-eyed insanity, sharp-eyed observations, and a comic instinct that embraces rather than ridicules the charac-

ter's internal frases. Emily Jordan expertly plays the mock-feminine Kidd with a honey-voiced seductiveness that becomes downright creepy.

There is less nuance in Kay-Lynn Raschke's performance as Casey, though its effectiveness grows as the story unfolds. Tim Hendrix brashly plays Doc, a male character of various guises, and Treacy Corrigan and Sarah Korda complete the cast as the asylum's attendants.

Strangers in Paradox is not an easy play, but it doesn't hesitate to bluntly tell us what art is supposed to do. "The function of art," says one of the characters, "is to kill. Art should kill off the parts of our audience that need to die." By that definition, *Strangers in Paradox* isn't quite lethal. ▼

Strangers in Paradox will run at Theatre Rhino through April 12. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-5079.

Lame in lamé

Cuba Gooding, Jr.'s gay 'Boat Trip' full of tired jokes

by Robert Julian

Last Friday, *Boat Trip*, a huge chunk of floating excrement, dropped anchor at your local multiplex. This fish-out-of-water "comedy" stars Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Horatio Sanz as an interracial Laurel & Hardy — a couple of straight guys unwittingly booked onto a gay cruise. Gooding, the Stan Laurel poseur, whines predictably about the fine mess Sanz (Hardy) has gotten them into — and he does it in drag. Surely there is a special hell somewhere reserved for men like writer/director Mort Nathan — a place where he can be strapped to a broken theater seat, force-fed stale popcorn, and made to watch endless loops of *Boat Trip* for all eternity.

Jerry (Gooding) gets dumped by his bitchy girlfriend, Felicia (Viveca A. Fox). His best friend Nick (Sanz) suggests recovery in the form of a cruise where they can both get laid. But on the way to the travel agency, the boys get into a shouting match with the lover of the gay travel agent, who subsequently extracts revenge by booking the guys onto a gay cruise. Once on board, Jerry finds his soulmate in the form of the ship's dancing instructor, Gabriella (Roselyn Sanchez), while Nick fends off the advances of aging queen Lloyd (Roger Moore, née James Bond) and other assorted homosexuals. Jerry pretends to be gay in order to get close to Gabriella, but he gets outed as a straight guy when former girlfriend Felicia arrives at port to mend their broken romance.

The script for *Boat Trip* is perpetrated by director Mort Nathan and writer William Bigelow. Nathan allows production designer Charles Breen to create a ship where ice sculptures on the buffet tables are large penises, while costume designer Tim Chappel serves up a cadre of gay male passengers attired like Village People, drag queens, or shoppers at an *International Male* outlet sale. High



Horatio Sanz (Nick) and Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Jerry) climb aboard ship.

on the list of related crimes is Maurice Godin's performance as Hector, the Hispanic drag queen who occupies the stateroom adjacent to Jerry and Nick. Godin, with the director's blessing, produces a direct copy of Hank Azaria's gay housekeeper from *The Birdcage*, complete with lisp and speech impediment.

Pilgrim's progress

The nature and extent of the progress made by homosexuals, Latinos, and blacks in Hollywood studio pictures may be precisely gauged by *Boat Trip*. Here, black and Hispanic stars are provided the opportunity to show just how tolerant they are by allowing gay people to hang out with them. The passenger list of gay men allegedly includes skilled surgeons and crackerjack lawyers, but this can only be discerned by a one-liner tossed off by Cuba Gooding.

Forget all that stuff about nelly hairdressers; this ship features fey firemen (Maurice Godin) and limp-wristed career military men (Roger Moore). Collectively, gay people as currently portrayed in *Boat Trip* have risen to the level of the sweet, long-suffering black maid portrayed by Juanita Moore in Douglas Sirk's *Imitation of Life*, while the black Cuba Gooding now reigns as the immaculately groomed heterosexual saint formerly represented by Lana Turner. Although the chairs on this Titanic have been rearranged, from port to starboard the ship still sails on patronization.

Of course, there are no *black* homosexuals in this film. If *Boat Trip* included any of *those*, it might be too threatening to the ticket-buying bro's who producers are counting on to show up in droves with their ho's and homies. Stupid heterosexuals, the *real* tar-

Sandstorm in Rajasthan



Director Jag Mundhra's political drama *Sandstorm* opens Friday in the Bay Area. Based on a London *Guardian* feature article by Suzanne Goldenberg, the film tells the true story of a low-caste woman in rural India who speaks up against the custom of child marriage. Gang-raped by upper-caste men in her town, Sanwari (Nandita Das) seeks justice through the municipal court system, hopelessly corrupted by sexism and political opportunism. Ring any local bells? Sanwari went on to become India's leading anti-rape activist. *Sandstorm* is in Hindi with English subtitles.

get audience for this film, will probably rush into theaters to lap up this tripe. *Boat Trip*'s thin veneer of political correctness provides them an opportunity to squirm, squeal, and snicker at quers, and still leave the theater feeling good about themselves. Tell your friends. ▼

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Black hawk down

by Victoria A. Brownworth

March madness began a few days early this year, but it had nothing to do with the NCAA tournament, which has been pre-empted by a bigger TV event: Gulf War II — or, possibly, World War III.

"Where were you when the bombs fell?" Likely no one will ask themselves that question about March 19, 8 p.m. EST, when George W. Bush gave the orders to begin a war on Iraq. Even if those first bombs (followed almost too quickly by that first broadcast on CNN) signaled what will have begun, as some warn, the start of

World War III, how many will remember it with the clarity allotted other moments etched in the minds of Americans and brought live by TV: when Kennedy was shot, when the planes flew into the buildings on 9/11?

After all, it didn't happen here, to us. TV registered its impact with amazing (even suspect) immediacy. This column, filed a few days prior to publication, will lack that up-to-the-minute timeliness that newspapers can't compete with in the face of TV. The speed of evolving events precludes print catching up to electronics. Thus our print-media role often becomes deconstruction of events.

TV made this war possible.

Had it not been for TV, Bush would not have been able to reiterate his daily *Manchurian Candidate* brainwashing with the Iraq = terrorism = 9/11 mantra that has convinced a majority of Americans that Saddam Hussein orchestrated 9/11. TV brought those photo ops into American living rooms every day until the case had apparently been made for the majority of Americans, if not the UN Security Council or America's major allies.

TV brought Secretary of State Colin Powell, with his charts and diagrams at the UN, into our living rooms as well. We witnessed the pain and exasperation of the French, German, Russian and Chinese ambassadors as they rejected the calls to war, the outrage of Tony Blair as he faced down an antiwar populace, the antiwar protests of millions, and the silence of many others. We watched the most brilliant moments of Robert Byrd's Senate career as he first demanded to know why Congress had been so deplorably silent over the war, and later lamented the wrongness of our pending incursion into Iraq. We saw Byrd lambasted by John McCain, who spent five years in a POW camp during Vietnam. We witnessed tractors bulldozing CDs by the Dixie Chicks after they protested the war. We watched the effigy of Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President Jimmy Carter pelted with eggs.

Carpet bombing

But it wasn't all politics and real or faux patriotism. There were the things TV is known for, like flogging celebrity. In the last hour before the bombs flew, there was what can now only be termed the abject silliness of extended discourse on *Extra!, Access Hollywood* and *ET* over choosing to forego the red carpet at the Academy Awards, and to nix the interviews usually held there. Joan Rivers' commentary on the stars' dress banned: the only positive moment in the war. Elizabeth Taylor scoffed at the debate, "It



Lavender Tube

been the platform for political speeches in years past. The awards have always been held in wartime, regardless of appropriateness. "The people need it, but it must be tasteful and understated," several Hollywood moguls noted. Current antiwar activist Susan Sarandon had been banned from the Awards after making a speech in 1993 about AIDS in Cuba. Another antiwar activist, Richard Gere, the only member of the *Chicago* cast not to be nominated for an Oscar, had been banned in 1996 after he spoke out about his pet issue, freeing Tibet. This is what filled those eerie TV minutes before the clock ticked out for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq.

When the Oscar debate stopped and the tabloid shows ended, the bombs began to drop on Baghdad. Soon Saddam Hussein (or his body double) would be speaking about the infidel Americans on Arab TV network Al-Jazeera, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would be announcing that within 24 hours US forces would control the TV and radio of Iraq. Thus TV became the global medium of war.

We were stunned by the implacable faces of New Yorkers watching war break out on the big TV screen in Times Square. Would this augur another 9/11, or prevent one? One young woman, tears streaming down her face, looked into the camera and registered her shock. How, she wondered, could so many people be against this war, and still it had begun? Perhaps she had been deluded by TV; seeing the millions marching against the war worldwide had led her to believe that war could be averted, that one man's perspective could not overwhelm the counterperspective of millions. Such is the power of television.

Night visions

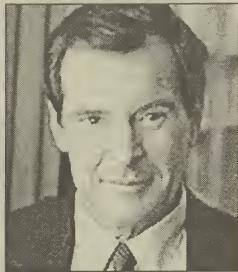
Soon came the aerial views, the night-vision shots and all the other videodrome aspects of modern warfare we have come to expect since the first Gulf War. The news coverage has been almost nonstop, as it was during the aftermath of 9/11. If we wanted to watch something else — the premiere of *America's Most Talented Kid*; the follow-up episode to the most fabulous couple of weeks of *Boomer Room* since the show debuted; *All My Children*, where Bianca is about to fall for another inaccessible woman; *Leno*, where last week in the moments before the war, Oscar-winner Cuba Gooding Jr. was declaring his gay-friendly politics; or guest host Megan Mullally of *Will & Grace* and SAG Award fame filling in for the still-ill David Letterman, dishing it up with the most gay of gay fashion designers, Isaac Mizrahi — we can't, because the war has captivated our media consciousness, at least for now.

TV, like politics itself, is driven by alliances. Since the war began, only one perspective on the war has been aired: the pro-war, pro-Bush viewpoint (NBC and CNN started early, PBS came last). If one wants another vantage point, then TV news from other nations must suffice: BBC Worldnews, Al-Jazeera, or even the Chinese and Russian news available on cable access. The lockstep here is firm.

Few of us may have chosen this war, but TV has embraced it.

Thus we see Peter Arnett reprising for NBC the role which made him a media darling in the first Gulf War; and the superb Richard Engel, looking perilously young and not a little scared, the last reporter in Baghdad before the bombs fell, simultaneously translating from Arabic for ABC. Then there was *Nightline*'s Ted Koppel with the 3rd Infantry Division in Southern Iraq, suited up for chemical warfare. Aging, yes, but never too old, apparently, to go for the story. Or Dan Rather proclaiming that the tape *did* show Saddam Hussein and not a body double. After all the time he spent interviewing Saddam, he could recognize him, asserted Rather.

Wartime oddities included ABC's Charlie Gibson debating with a British historian the silliness of Saddam Hussein's hat in the video on the night of the bombing. Or Peter Jennings com-



ABC's Peter Jennings: what a relief.

menting at 1 a.m. on Day 3 of the bombing, after being on-air for what seemed all three days, that it was a relief that Israel had not been attacked. Perhaps it was sleep deprivation, but can anyone remember the notoriously anti-Israel Jennings making any such conciliatory comments?

The aftermath of 9/11 brought out the best in TV: it brought a terrified and shell-shocked nation together, it allowed messages of hope to be broadcast, it helped quell the deep need for revenge and retaliation so that mayhem and mob rule were not allowed purchase. In those dark days, TV lent us comfort and allowed us some access to courage, helping us survive the worst single act of terrorism in history.

TV proffers access to the war but none of the comfort that followed 9/11. At this writing, TV is peopled round the clock with the talking heads of retired generals and other military experts. There is no room for dissent, even though dissent continues across this nation and throughout the world. The war moves forward, and the number of dead mounts slowly. Daily reports on the hideous acts of the Hussein family (in addition to Saddam's own crimes against humanity, his eldest son, Oday, is a known serial rapist and torturer) and regime are repeated to remind us just how evil these men are (and make no mistake, they are evil) and why this is, as Bush insists, a just war, not a war about oil and world domination. TV is doing its part in the propaganda wars.

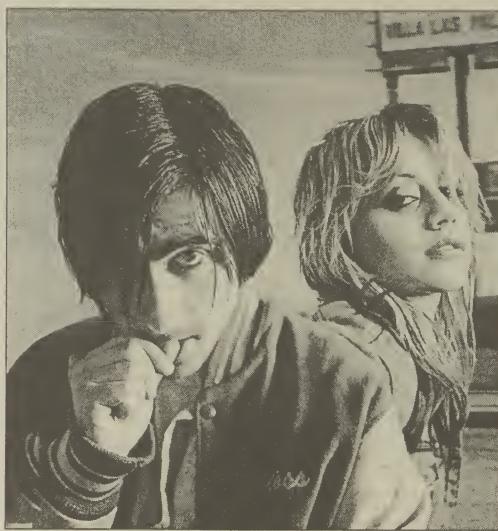
And so we all watch, transfixed. As Shakespeare wrote in *Henry V*, "Wreak havoc and unleash the dogs of war." We have done the unleashing. Now TV will bear witness to how much havoc we will have wreaked in the coming days. Stay tuned. ▼



La Taylor: "AIDS is my life now."

seems so irrelevant, doesn't it? I mean, it's a war." Explaining that this would be her last awards ceremony, the woman many think of as The Last Movie Star declared she has given up acting. "AIDS is my life now," she said succinctly.

It was as if there were nothing else to discuss in the moments while the Bush Administration filled the war room and decided that Saddam would be taken out *now*. Instead of jittery pre-war concerns, the discussion was over whether Oscar presenters would veer from the established scripts, i.e. make anti-war speeches. Much was made of how the Oscars had

Jason Schwartzman (Ross) and Nikki (Brittany Murphy) in *Spun*

Speed-freak show

'Spun' out of control on crystal meth

by David Lamble

Ross, I like you even though you're not a normal guy," are the words of Nikki (Brittany Murphy) to Ross (Jason Schwartzman) as they spend three hellish days together in the North Los Angeles Valley in Swedish director Jonas Akerlund's *Spun*, a frenetic examination of young lives lost to the nation's crystal-meth epidemic.

Ross, who is suffering under the delusion that he still is a normal guy, drives a Volvo that is many months beyond dealer-recommended maintenance, sports three days' growth of the famous Coppola-family beard genes, and

indulges in casually cruel behavior that might produce pangs of conscience in a Serbian army veteran. *Spun* is a film that combines the take-no-prisoners pace of MTV, the cheeky chutzpah of early John Waters, and the bratty character development of middle Gregg Araki.

Hired to be the chauffeur and messenger boy for The Cook (the ballyhooed comeback role for Hollywood's Number One lost boy, Mickey Rourke), a rhinestone cowboy whose sloppy home-chemistry set produces the valley's speed supply, Ross becomes our guide to an island of lost souls that includes Spider Mike (John Leguizamo, an actor whose range and ubiquity has made him practically his own genre), a paranoid dealer whose overheated sex drive and lack of impulse control has him shooting off the balls of a snitch while Keystone nars invade his flat.

A film whose casualties include even a small dog isn't always pretty or easy to watch, but *Spun*, in sharp contrast to Darren Aronofsky's elaborately choreographed ballet of doom *Requiem for a Dream*, is not designed for the finicky art-house crowd. Instead, it's meant to be a direct hit to the synapses, almost an alternative drug.

Pumpkin head

Shot in a sensually deprived world bleached of color, *Spun* combines head-spinning special effects, punky animation (possibly ripped off from the more ambitious *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*) and an alternative music soundtrack designed by former head Smashing Pumpkin Billy Corgan, who pops up in a cameo as a doctor.

Spun is chock-full of dishy cameos and improbable support-

ing players. While it's too early to say that Mickey Rourke is "back," given where he's been, the now-fleshy actor is pitch-perfect, dressed up as a garish parody of the urban cowboy, an immoral rogue who has more concern for the bonus features on a porn DVD than for the welfare of any creature, human or canine. Deborah Harry has deadpan fun as the "lesbian neighbor" who becomes a Quick-Stop vigilante. She says, "I don't like resorting to violence, but men, they're evil. They need healing."

Patrick Fugit is unsettling to behold as an acne-marked speed-wasted video-game freak. In your head, you keep hearing Frances McDormand's doting mother from *Almost Famous* screaming, "Don't take drugs," to Fugit's 15-year-old rock journalist. And Eric Roberts delivers a saucy *coup de grace* to any thought of political correctness in his boldly silly queenly crime boss, who bankrolls Rourke's speed labs while patting the dude on the butt and purring, "That's a real man."

Ultimately, it's Schwartzman's Ross who keeps the movie from the spun (a druggie term hinting that a fatal line has been crossed) that infects its crazed denizens. Just when you fear Ross won't keep the Volvo on the road, you start to realize that the young actor's decision to underplay his character's callous nonchalance (keeping a female trick handcuffed to his motel bed for most of the movie) has helped you want to see his journey through to the bittersweet end. The film's coda is sounded by a dispirited speed freak: "Wish I could sleep forever, man." ▼

Opens Friday.

Robot consumers mouth commercial mantras in *One Mile Per Minute*.

Personal psychodramas

SF Cinematheque presents Bobby Abate

by Gary Morris

In his online bio, queer avant-garde filmmaker Bobby Abate compares himself to Britney Spears. Like her, he says, he's a "slave to ritual, commercialism, self-reflexivity and contradiction. Not a boy, not yet a man — you might say he's painfully wedged under pop culture with his little head sticking out and screaming for help." This thumbnail self-portrait captures Abate's whimsical side, but not the complexity of his work. The San Francisco Cinematheque's one-night retrospective on March 27 — one night because his films are all shorts so far — shows an intriguing and very queer talent at work.

The earliest selection is 1999's *The Tanti Man*, an 11-minute evocation of a summer romance between Abate (who stars in much of his work) and a handsome drifter. Shot in Salisbury, Massachusetts, this sweet work deftly interweaves love scenes with memories of the melodrama of being a tortured high school homo, complete with wounded poetry and threats of suicide. Skeeter Davis' mournful tune "The End of the World," excerpted in endlessly repeated loops, provides the hypnotic soundtrack to what is ultimately a bittersweet idyll. Among the arresting images: the boys making love sprawled over a Candyland gameboard.

Chisholm, made the same year, ups the artistic ante with striking images of a porn film shot on high school graduation night at a cheesy motel. "All we wanted to do was get fucked up and party all night," a voiceover repeats against flickering, half-lit images of tits and asses and hard-ons, again accompanied by the homely looped refrain of an early '60s teen-girl tune, this time Little Peggy March wailing about lost innocence, presumably that of the mysterious stars: "My teenage castle is tumblin' down..."

"What would happen if Truman [Capote] had followed his original intention" of having Holly Golightly be male? That question was the inspiration for *The Zero Order* (2000), Abate's longest work to date at a little over a half-hour. In this striking re-

thinking of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, he (and several others) plays Holly, rediscovering the true queerness in Capote's original novel. A clever touch is a voiceover of a 1950s-style psychiatrist trying to cure Abate's homosexuality.

One Mile Per Minute (2002), Abate's most recent work, wittily portrays a literally topsy-turvy world (the camera is on its side for much of this one). In this fractured dreamscape, robot-consumers mouth commercial mantras — "I love Frazier, I love ER..." — and rest under a sun that's a corporate logo.

The three-part *Real Videos* (1999-2001) are a heady mix of Pixelvision beefcake scenes, airplane crashes, and webcam homosex that show cocksucking, butt-fucking, and jacking off as sources of solace in a capsized capitalist world. Abate exploits the chilliness of the modern technolandscape to superb effect, placing his sexy porn boys in scintillating scenarios of pleasure even when one is on a computer and the other is watching. Naked rough trade, sleepy rimmers, a man (the director, it appears) licking a modem — these are some of the denizens of Abate's sensual, mesmerizing world. ▼

Psychogenre Re-Visions: New Work by Bobby Abate, March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Info: 552-1990, www.sfcinematheque.org



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Inner visions, outer depths

Olivier Messiaen's own private Utah released on disc

by Tim Pfaff

One of the primary emotional responses to the music of Olivier Messiaen — even among people who, like me, adore it — is embarrassment. It's not high on the list, but it makes the list. Certain elements — the primordial, the childlike sense of wonder, the rapture in the presence of the Divine, the questing but unquestioning faith, the reveling in revelations (with and without a capital R), and those bloody birds

— occasionally make listeners blush, even flinch. A friend who loves Messiaen talks about the "kitsch" of some of the music (and his love of it). It seems to be part of the Messiaen experience.

There's no waiting in his *Des canyons aux étoiles*. As Myung-Whun Chung's splendid new DG CD attests, about a minute into the first movement, "The Desert," a wind machine kicks into action, surely representing both a natural and a divine wind. (Messiaen saw no such distinctions.) Even to the initiated, it can feel like a regre-

table moment in an amateur theater production. It reappears often during the 90-minute score, and, while one gets used to it, the sound doesn't get any less hokey.

But by the end of Part I, the magnificent "Bryce Canyon et les roches rouge-orange," I realized that I was experiencing a different kind of embarrassment, not about Messiaen's machinery, or the kitsch, but about my America, particularly as contrasted with his. Messiaen's score lacks the Americana (if not the complexity) of Ives. Neither is it Dvorák's sentimentalized "New World." But today the America he envisioned in the work now feels like a remote if not forgotten place.

Canyons was commissioned by Alice Tully for the American Bicentennial in 1976. Messiaen told Claude Samuel, in an Amadeus Press book-length interview, *Olivier Messiaen: Music and Color*, "Writing a work for the United States implied that I like the United States, that I even love it. But how to love those skyscrapers that I cannot stand? So I searched in my library and found ... the most beautiful thing in the United States: Bryce Canyon in Utah. I said to my wife, 'We must go to Bryce Canyon!'"

His account of their visit to the canyon, its deep silences punctuated only by birdsong, are stirring. But two other statements stand out. After calling the "Bryce Canyon" movement "the central piece of the entire work," he adds: "[It] sums up all the questioning about misfortune and suffering

[and] it can be said that the entire work answers it by showing, alongside the atrocities surrounding us, the miraculous beauties of our planet and the hope of still greater beauties after death."

Then, of its reception at its 1974 premiere: "The New York critics didn't understand a thing. I wonder if they could understand that the beauty of America is not concentrated only in the New York skyscrapers." Since that statement would now bar his re-entry into the Fortified States of America, one hopes the "still greater beauties after death" are his to contemplate.

Geological time

This has long been one of the most appreciated of Messiaen's large-scale works, the last big orchestral piece he wrote before *Saint François d'Assise*. In it, his love of nature found a locale that matched his inner vision, from the depths of canyon chasms to the sky's brightest stars. One more quote, a rare example of a composer's saying what a work is "about": "[It] is at once geological, ornithological, astronomical, and theological... [It] is above all a religious work of praise and contemplation."

It's the spiritual dimension Myung-Whun Chung captures here that was shorted, if not overlooked, in the last important recording of the piece, by the LA Philharmonic under Esa-Pekka Salonen, a cold if virtuoso endeavor. The musical forces are on a par (Myung-Whun again leads



the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, with brilliant soloists Jean-Jacques Justafre, horn, and Roger Muraro, piano), but while DG's performers are no less precise, concentrated and, when the music calls for it, hard-edged, they also attain levels of tenderness and that aura of contemplation that Salonen's more abstract performance lacks.

Justafre's astonishing horn-playing, which brings new meaning to the expression "extended technique," makes the solo "Appel interstellaire" ("Interstellar Call") one of the work's most enrapturing moments, and Muraro's solo "Le Moqueur polyglotte" ("The Mockingbird") figures among the great Messiaen bird-song movements on disc. The crushing bass chord at 7:30 is cataclysmic.

The last time an American rendered a canyon musically, we got Ferde Grofe's paint-on-black-velvet sunrise, sunset, and musically onomatopoeic mules. For the country's bicentennial, a real French composer gave us a wild, complex musical vision of an America that extended from the erosion-carved depths to the hottest stars, with birds singing the connectedness of all things in the divine in-between. That vision is now fully realized on disc. We should fare as well on the earthly plane. ▼



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Bend It Like...

◀ Arts cover

opening and casting her new feature, a modern, Indian musical version of a Jane Austen novel which begins shooting in July.

"Do you know Tony Blair wrote me this wonderful letter after seeing the film?" Gurinder asks. "He wrote, 'Man, I love this film. It's so good. But what I loved about it is it's about the Britain I love. Multicultural Britain and blah blah blah.' All that kind of stuff. And that's how I feel. I feel fantastic. I'm seen as one of the most commercial directors that Britain has now," she laughs. "When I made *Bhaji on the Beach*, I was kind of an ethnic, little something on the side."

As for *Bend It*, Gurinder exclaims, "I think for women, whether they are lesbians or not, it's a girl power movie, and we don't get many of those. One of the last girl power movies I saw was *Desert Hearts*. Wow! What a movie that was. One of the best love stories I've ever seen. It was like a real Yeah!-Go-Get-Them kind of thing."

"I think ultimately with *Bend It*," she continues, "it's not just a cultural story. It's not just a gay story. It's everything. And those of us who are often seen by others as minorities, whether you're gay, black, Indian, whatever, those of us who are often seen as a side-light, often defined by our otherness, actually our lives encompass everything."

"I mean, I love when people ask me what is it that I really like about America. My answer is always Bruce Springsteen. I love Bruce Springsteen's pieces. I carry



Jess Bhamra (Parminder Nagra) wants to be like her hero, soccer sensation David Beckham, in Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It Like Beckham*.

all his CDs with me on the plane, and that's what I listen to when I'm traveling and in the gym. And people look at me thinking they're seeing an Indian woman, and they go, 'We didn't expect that!'"

Getting back to *Bend It*, Gurinder laughs, "In terms of the lesbian community in Britain, I think they were just relieved to see great images of girls looking really good. At the same time, they like the idea of a story that encompasses sexuality to some degree, but also transcends those boundaries. I wanted to have fun with the idea of, 'Oh, if you're a woman and you're into sports, then you must be a lesbian.' It would have been sick, I think, to have this whole, 'Maybe I am a lesbian. What am I going to do?' sto-

ryline."

By the way, there is a male coming-out subplot for the guys. I won't tell you who.

As for her forthcoming musical, Gurinder instructs, "It's *Pride and Prejudice*, so it's very close to the novel, but there is a whole lesbian subplot to the book. That the big thing. Jane Austen was supposed to be a lesbian. Oh, yeah. There's been talk about it. Apparently, she was. I think with Jane Austen, her books have a lot of intimate scenes between women. Camaraderie between women." But sadly, no all-women-soccer-player-locker-room scenes. For that, you'll just have to see *Bend It*. ▼

Opens Friday.

Painting for peace

Frank Lobdell at the Ca. Legion of Honor

by Will Shank

How lucky we are to live in the People's Republic of the Bay Area, where covering over a copy of Picasso's antiwar masterpiece, *Guernica* (something that actually happened in New York last month during a Colin Powell photo-op at the UN), would be unthinkable. At least one *hopes* it would be unthinkable!

During this, our very own 21st-century war, there is some reassurance and validation of our feelings to be found in the paintings of Frank Lobdell. Every artist from Goya to Picasso who has used his paintbrush to give the horrors of war a repulsive immediacy has also helped to ease our pain by sharing the experience.

Octogenarian Lobdell, born in 1921, has been an important part of the creative life of San Francisco for almost 60 years. His own political passions go way back. So moved was he by the Spanish Civil War that, as teenager, he considered enlisting to fight Fascism. The *Guernica* itself further inspired young Lobdell when he first saw it in person at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1940, while Picasso's masterpiece was touring the world as a sort of high-class anti-Franco billboard.

When he finally did see active duty, Lobdell's experiences in World War II exposed him to such unforgettable images as a barnful

of smoldering corpses of prisoners that had been burnt by retreating German troops. Visual hints of his nightmares about the blackened, charred extremities of the bodies appear throughout Lobdell's paintings. His "31 December 1948" is not as literal as the screaming figures of Picasso. Rather, suggestions of pain and suffering from unknown sources, in what is perhaps his most important work, are achieved through abstracted shapes that suggest figures, along with the palette of psychotic colors.

In this period after the war, Lobdell had returned to the Bay Area to study at the California School of Fine Art (now the Art Institute), where he was a member of a group of abstract painters who were inspired by Clyfford Still and his ugly-beautiful aesthetic of somewhat greasy-looking gestural compositions on canvas, writ large.

Summer of conflict

Another war two decades later gave Lobdell new chance to express his anguish. The enormous three-part canvas "Summer 1967" is a visual protest against the Vietnam conflict. Twenty-four related prints, displayed nearby, allow the viewer access to the thought process whereby Lobdell created "Summer 1967." This painting, like "31 December 1948," has just entered the collection of the Fine Arts Museums.

If you go to the painting exhibi-

bition at the Legion of Honor, stop by the intimate, dimly-lit gallery downstairs on your way to the cafe to see 14 of Lobdell's sketchbooks, which were recently acquired by the Fine Arts Museums. These books, with other gifts of prints and drawings from the artist's dealer, his son, and the artist himself, will constitute the complete graphic archive of Frank Lobdell at the Achenbach Foundation. Many viewers may find the immediacy of the sketches even more compelling than Lobdell's paintings.

Frank Lobdell: The Art of Making and Meaning, through May 25 at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. The works on paper remain on view until June 15. Call the Legion for more information at (415) 863-3330, or visit www.legionofhonor.org.

The installations of Lobdell works at the Legion form an eloquent complement to the recent installation by his contemporary Wally Hedrick, *Pre-emptive Peace*, which just closed in Rohnert Park at Sonoma State College. At age 74, Hedrick is still working in his Bodega "fix-it" shop, although he is currently "on strike," as he was during both the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. His all-black *War Room* (1970) was the single most impressive work of art at this winter's San Francisco Art Expo. Visit the website for Sonoma State's gallery, www.sonoma.edu/pubs/release/2003/325.html, for more information. ▼



Courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

"31 December 1948" (1948) by Frank Lobdell: suggestions of suffering.

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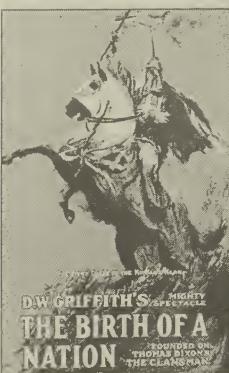
by Matthew Kennedy

D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) is arguably the most discussed movie in history. America had never sat down for a three-hour movie before, but it greeted the Civil War drama of two families with overwhelming interest. Some of it still excites, particularly Lincoln's assassination at the Ford Theater. A mother-and-son reunion at an army hospital is poignant in the extreme, with Griffith offering full stories among the extras. We see crying women being led out of the camera's range, while nurses and doctors grimly consult. The movie is rich in human texture, and at such times Griffith's expansion of movie art is almost

tangible. In contrast, the second half of *Birth of a Nation*, with its blazing glorification of the Klan, is excruciating. Or surreal, considering that the bad guys are fighting for what the modern world calls civil rights.

Birth of a Nation is as much a demonstration of Griffith's skills as it is a memorial to a uniquely American legacy. In a 1930 interview contained here as an extra, Griffith continued to defend his feelings for the Klan, despite years of protest and boycotts against his movie. The ad will probably never go away. Germany has *Triumph of the Will* and the United States has *Birth of a Nation*, two great works of art stained with racial propaganda in the service of national mythmaking.

Intolerance (1916) represents a quantum leap over *Birth of a Nation*. Griffith rightfully calls debt to the Italian epics *Cabiria* and *The Last Days of Pompeii*, but the structure of *Intolerance* was revolutionary. Four stories from history are interwoven around the central theme of the movie's title. Two episodes, the death of Christ and the massacre of the Huguenots, are relatively weak, though the French Queen sneering at the sight of so many dead is an effective moment of rendered evil. The modern episode is filled with self-righteous "Uplifter" biddies who wrench a baby from its mother, played by the highly emotive Mae Marsh. With implications of drinking and vice (the father rots in jail due to a travesty of justice), the modern story comes



Glorification of the Klan: surreal.

to resemble an episode of *The Guardian*. The men of *Intolerance* pose and flex, but the women make a stronger impression, with fiendishly good work from Marsh, Constance Talmadge as the spirited Mountain Girl, and Miriam Cooper as a dark-eyed, vengeful killer.

Grand gestures

The fall of Babylon in *Intolerance* is pure movie nirvana. To page 38 ►

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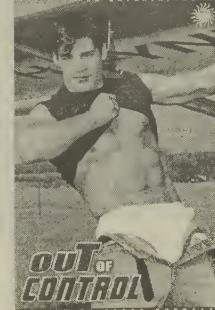
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Mild-mannered mystery

by Jim Piechota

It Takes Two by Elliott Mackle; Alyson Books, \$13.95

Set in post-World War II Florida, journalist and restaurant critic Mackle's tale of murder

and intrigue (with a gay twist, of course) follows closeted war veteran-turned-detective Bud Wright as he attempts to make sense of a double murder. As the book opens, Bud is called to the Plaza Motor Hotel, where the bloody corpses of Hillard Norris and Wash Davis lie, both men victims of fatal gunshot

wounds. One man is found with the gun still in his hand, and accusations start flying, since Hillard and Davis is white.

The crime becomes problematic mainly because this is Fort Myers in the late 1940s, a time of racial unrest. The Ku Klux Klan flourishes, and homosexual life thrives solely as an extreme underground movement. Bud veils his relationship with boyfriend Dan Ewing, a late-20s WWII Navy veteran and manager of the classy Caloosa Hotel. The hotel is home to the very private, gay-friendly Caloosa Club, stomping grounds for outspoken drag queen Carmen Veranda. Dan's a more interesting character, since he's got more life experience under his belt, being a prior manager of a brothel under the auspices of his Navy duties. He also found and lost

his first true love, Ensign Mike Rizzo, on active military duty.

The Caloosa Hotel becomes a key location to the mystery, and plays host to random politicos, Mafia figures, and KKK members — all of whom would prefer to sweep the Norris/Davis murder under the rug.

As the story progresses, an obvious imbalance emerges between tight snippets of the progressively complicated murder and the lengthy relationship dynamics of Bud and Dan. This might be a draw for gay readers, but it's a let-down for those looking for more substantial suspense.

The men team up to bring the novel to a satisfying conclusion, though the explicitly described sex between Bud and Dan ("Help me, Coach. Keep on it, Coach") will



limit this book's crossover appeal.

Overall, Mackle delivers some relatively soft-boiled stuff here, though those who like their mysteries light on plot and heavy on characterization and steam heat will find much to enjoy in this notable debut. ▼

Snuff is enough

by Jim Piechota

The Cutting Room by Louise Welsh; Canongate Books, \$24

Glasgow, Scotland resident Louise Welsh's debut is a swift, crafty story filled with dark imagery, a murky plot, and an ornery protagonist who likes getting blowjobs in the shadowy parks of the West End. Rilke is a matured gay auctioneer with glasses and long, gray hair who is called to the monstrous three-story home of elderly Madeleine McKindless. The place is stacked high with sophisticated furniture and art pieces, a virtual windfall for Rilke and Bowery Auction house. Madeleine's brother kept an office in the secluded third-floor attic space, where Rilke finds an enormous library of pornography, walls of picture books and literature, and an envelope containing old, tarnished photographs of a young girl splayed on a table, throat slit, covered in blood. Other shots depict a group of cackled men, one revealed to be Mr. McKindless, all convening around another pale and butchered corpse.

The hidden detective in Rilke is awakened, and a search for answers ensues, taking him from the seedy porn shops of Glasgow to a woman named Anne-Marie, a prostitute who poses for racy photographs.

In-between questioning the town's smut purveyors (and some cursory sex here and there), Rilke takes time out to check in with his concerned boss, Rose, and to hit a transsexual bar with her and charismatic, "evil pixie" drag queen Les.



Rilke's fever to know the identity of the sacrificed girl in the photos loses some steam three-quarters of the way in, but things eventually twist and turn their way toward a finale involving the white slave trade.

Bits of opinionated wisdom are scattered throughout the book. These include the acquired taste of anonymous sex ("Some people run from Grandma's house, they long for the bite of the wolf"), a ranting, patronizing Presbyterian viewpoint on homosexuality, and the immoderate use of cell phones ("Someone always felt the urge to talk.")

Both the essentials and the extras impressively add up to a stylish and moody novel. Rilke is as raw and real as they come. In her debut, Welsh introduces an unadorned gay man who is unwittingly drawn into a sexually vulgar web of crime. Haunting and addictive, with all-nighter potential. ▼

The trouble with queers

by Robert Julian

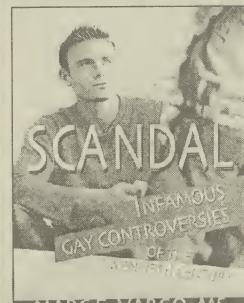
Scandal: Infamous Gay Controversies of 20th Century by Marc E. Vargo; Haworth Press, \$19.95

S is a work of nonfiction, the most refreshing part of *Scandal* is its avoidance of a certain *National Enquirer* mentality. Author Marc E. Vargo focuses on seven events of the past century that scandalized a nation or a society. Each of these events is given its own chapter, and Vargo spends just the right amount of time explaining the context and times that made these homosexual flame out in such a spectacular way.

Italian poet/filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini's social ostracism and 1975 murder is one of the most familiar stories, followed closely by that of Cuban author and activist Reinaldo Arenas (*Before Night Falls*). Irish activist and humanitarian Roger Casement, executed for treason in 1916, was actually sent to the gallows for his diaries that revealed Casement's passionate penchant for dark-skinned men with large dicks.

Lesbian author Radclyffe Hall was spared her life, but crucified in 1920s England for the alleged obscenity of her novel, *The Well of Loneliness*. German Kaiser Wilhelm II suffered political disgrace because of his homosexual best friend, Prince Eulenburg. Guy Burgess and Donald McLean, gay communists, spied for Russia until their cover was blown and they were forced into exile. And in the 1980s, Simon Ikoli, a gay South African human rights activist, spent three years in prison on a bogus charge of treason.

Marc Vargo's prose style is matter-of-fact and scholarly, without becoming boring. He tells fascinating tales of persecution and suffering attributed to an individual's homosexual expression. In some cases, the persecution ultimately helps improve the status of gay people in society, while others



result in greater oppression. In either case, those who suffer the most rarely derive any personal benefit from their ordeal. *Scandal* is an interesting documentation of international gay/lesbian history, and an enjoyable read. ▼

Griffith DVDs

◀ page 37

compete with the jaw-dropping sets, actors gesture wildly in a prolonged dance of operatic grandeur. In 1916, there were only so many ways a movie camera could move, so when Griffith engineered a downward pan upon the magnificent gluttony of old Babylon, accompanied here by a Joseph Turin score, the effect is positively thrilling. *Intolerance* improves over its three-hour running time, accelerating to a fist-clenching finale. Griffith poured on plenty of sentimentality and self-righteousness, but the sheer muscle of his filmmaking allowed him to get away with it.

Broken Blossoms (1919) is an altogether different flower in Griffith's garden, a fragrant bit of Oriental romanticism. The 90-minute ill-fated romance of waif Lillian Gish and kindly Chinese gentleman Richard Barthelmess is a tribute to the skill of its stars. Both were acutely sensitive actors, and in *Blossoms* they convey a purity too good for this world. The case could be made for Gish's character as the most pitiable creature the movies have ever seen. Beaten down by the abuse of her father (Donald Crisp), she's so miserable that she can muster a smile only by famously pushing the sides of her mouth up with her fingers.

The 7th disc of Kino's Griffith box-set is taken up with the 1921

feature *Orphans of the Storm*, Gish's last movie with Griffith. Historically, it's the least significant of the features offered by Kino, but it may be the most watchable today. Following a slurry '70s introduction by a sodden Orson Welles, *Orphans* features two sisters in 18th-century France, the plucky Henriette (Lillian) and the blind Louise (Dorothy Gish). Their story is predictably loving, but it's set against the storm of the Revolution, where historic currents toss our heroines into all sorts of challenges. Griffith reaches new levels of mastery for the contrasting intimate and epic storylines, suggesting inspirations in the work to come from Akira Kurosawa and David Lean. If the sisters suffer a bit too much, the plot of *Orphans* is otherwise irresistible, with Robespierre and Danton as integral characters, not mere historic references.

Griffith's invention of the feature film is debatable, but at minimum he was one of a handful of monster-egotist-pioneers of the business. To watch Kino's startlingly rich demonstration of his art is to rethink all of motion pictures. He looked backward and forward, which is the impulse behind much great art. In the case of Griffith, he borrowed 19th-century drama and applied it to 20th-century technology. The movies would never be the same. ▼

Griffith Masterworks DVD Box Set (\$99.95): www.kino.com.

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Spanish roots

Conchita Supervia captured on film

by Jason Serinus

Evensong - Evelyn Lane, Conchita Supervia - Bel Canto Society (VHS)

Why in the world does this VHS of an obscure, 83-minute, 1934 B&W movie deserve your attention? For one major reason: it affords us our only opportunity to see rare footage of the astounding Spanish mezzo-soprano Conchita Supervia.

Born in Barcelona on December 9, 1895, Supervia made her debut at the Colón Opera House in Buenos Aires at the age of 15. A year later, she created the role of Octavian in the Rome premiere of

Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. So astounding was her artistry that within another year she was playing the mature roles of Carmen and Dalila.

Treasured most for her extraordinary way with Rossini and Spanish song, Supervia was so revered for her vocal intensity and infectious *joie de vivre* that once, in a rehearsal for the scene in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* where Cinderella is driven to the ball by stagecoach, conductor Sir Thomas Beecham ran onstage, threw himself before her, and offered to play the horse.

This is not to say that Supervia's voice and prima donna will were not controversial. Possessed of a strong, prominent vibrato

(wickedly characterized as a rattle by the New York record salesman I encountered over 30 years ago when I purchased my first discount LP of Supervia's Rossini arias and duets), hers was an amazing sound that continues to raise eyebrows. Deep on bottom, free on top, and strong throughout, the voice was expressed with a thrust and verve that resound of Spanish/gypsy roots. The only modern mezzo who approaches Supervia in imagination and vitality, if not in vocal color, is Cecilia Bartoli.

Married to a brilliant intellect, Supervia's voice was employed with utmost skill, alternately growling, purring, seducing, pouting, pleading, and taunting.



Performing in an era when no one

would bat an eyelash when she and a fellow Spanish soprano recorded German duets from *Der Rosenkavalier* in Italian, the mezzo knew little of "correct" Mozart style or historically-informed embellishments. Instead, she bent tempo and phrasing to her will, speeding up and slowing down as would a large cat stalking its prey. The results are irresistible.

Supervia made well over 100 recordings before dying in 1936, at the height of her fame, from complications during childbirth. Many of her discs, such as her hilarious rendition of Sharp's "Oh no, John," sung with an unforgettable cockney accent tinged with Spanish roots, and her set of Genai's four *Canzoncine*, charming children's songs written for her which feature spoken introductions and animal sounds (Pearl), have long been considered collector's items. Supervia was also the

most passionate Carmen of her time, and equal to Elisabeth Schumann in the wealth of expression she brought to her few recordings of Mozart.

Back to *Evensong*. Supervia appears all-too-briefly toward the end of the film, playing an aging soprano's rival in a staged production of Puccini's *La Bohème*. Dressed to the hilt, and sporting a larger-than-life bonnet, the mezzo sings "Musetta's Waltz" while delightfully dancing about, flirting with her male admirers, and batting her fan in their faces. Her physical beauty is complemented by such a wealth of exaggerated vocal and physical expression as to suggest none other than an operatic Carmen Miranda.

Supervia also sings bits of three Spanish songs, including Valderde's "Clavelitos," which she recorded at least twice. While she's drowned out by Evelyn Lane's prima donna tirades, what we can hear makes us long for more.

What about the rest of the film? British musical star Evelyn Lane looks wonderful, sings quite well, and becomes more convincing as the hackneyed plot gradually affords her opportunities to act real. But the story, loosely based on the ascent and descent of Australian soprano Nellie Melba, is one of those predictable plots best seen late at night while chewing lots of popcorn. It's a period piece to be sure, but Supervia's cameos are to die for. ▼

The interpreters

Covers from Marley to Mayfield, on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Just when you think that you have a grasp on a song, you hear a new version of it and your opinion undergoes a complete revision. Many of the songs on *Cover the World: World Music Versions of Classic Pop Hits* (Putumayo) succeed in that way. Take "No Woman, No Cry," performed by Nenes, an all-female vocal quartet from Okinawa. The combination of the heavily accented vocals on the chorus, and instrumentation including the plucking of the sanshin make this a version that will be hard to forget. "El Lado Mas Bestia de la Vida," Albert Pla's cover of Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side," shines a bright Catalonian light on a song that I previously associated with the darkness of backrooms.

Mo' Horizons' Brazilian '60s pop placement of "Hit the Road, Jack" made me want to take it to the swinging streets. I was never a fan of Toto (the band, not the dog), but the Senegalese setting of the song "Afrika (Africa)" made me appreciate the composition in a new way. Both of Ladysmith Black Mambazo's contributions, covers of Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready" and Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine," feature female guest vocalists, Phoebe Snow and Des'ree, respectively, and are exceptional. Angelique Kidjo's interpretation of Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo Child (Slight Return)" is simply haunting.

An undeniable reverence permeates most of the performers paying homage to Joey, Jonny, Dee Dee and Marky Ramone on *We're a Happy Family: A Tribute to the Ramones* (DV8/Columbia/Radioactive). In fact, some of the versions are so reverent that the performers' identities get lost, and that's not necessarily a good thing.

Red Hot Chili Peppers pay their respects while maintaining their perspective on "Havana Affair." Rob Zombie's style of performance is so dominant that he comes through loud and clear on "Blitzkrieg Bop." While it was clever of U2 to cover "Beat on the Brat," it was hard to take peace-loving Bono seriously. Other interesting interpretations include "The KKK Took My Baby Away" by Marilyn Manson, and "Day-

time Dilemma (Dangers Of Love)" by Eddie Vedder and Zeke.

Extra cheese

Not for the lactose intolerant, *Tuxicity* (Ideatown), by Richard Cheese and Lounge against the Machine, takes 18 modern rock tunes and ferments them in the pinky-ring-wearing Cheese's lounge renditions. A novelty who still makes me laugh on the third listen, Richard Cheese (aka Mark Jonathan Davis) has been at this for a while, and his selection of material and his delivery give his shick legs. His finger-snapping illuminations of The White Stripes' "Fell In Love with a Girl," Linkin Park's "One Step Closer," and System of a Down's "Chop Suey" will have you downing martinis like a lush. His frankly Sinatra-esque covers of hip-hop tracks such as Cypress Hill's "Insane in the Membrane," Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back" and Mystikal's "Shake Ya Ass" are practically worth the price of admission.

Heralded as the next Harry Connick, Jr., 19, and exceptionally good-looking, Peter Cincotti is taking the jazz and cabaret worlds by storm with his self-titled debut disc on Concord Records. Of the disc's 12 songs, nine are covers of standards such as "Comes Love" (a Billie Holiday number revived by Joni Mitchell a few years ago), the Latin-influenced "Sway" (on which Cincotti's piano-playing shines), a "Fool on the Hill/Nature Boy" medley (I would have preferred more of the former and less of the latter), a dizzying piano-only version of Blood, Sweat & Tears' "Spinning Wheel," and a colorful version of "Rainbow Connection." The three Cincotti originals are pleasant, but do little to disguise his youth.

Canadian crooner Michael Bublé (pronounced boo-blay) reimagines a baker's dozen standards, new and old, on his self-titled debut album on 143 Records/Reprise. What sets this album apart are the surprising song selections, such as George Michael's "Kissing a Fool," The Bee Gees' "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart," and Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

"Singing policeman" and tenor Daniel Rodriguez's second album *From My Heart* (Manhattan) is a more romantic effort than his pa-

triotic and spiritual debut disc. The selections, such as two Frank Wildhorn/Nan Knighton compositions, "She Was There" and "Only Love," are of a more theatrical nature. Rodriguez also tries his hand, with success, at a pair of contemporary pop tunes: Diana Warren's "Completely" and Jimmy Webb's "All I Know." ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Peace tops all

There's a storm blowing through, the Rev. Cecil Williams told his congregation last Sunday at Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin, and appropriately we all sang Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind*. Hurricane Bush is toppling everything in its way. Time to duck and cover. Yes, we're supposed to love Brother Bush, despite his errant ways, because we're all one. But swallowing that bitter pill takes about a gallon of water and at least a quart of gin.

One of the local TV news broadcasts that Sunday interviewed a pro-troops, pro-flag, pro-war, anti-peace yahoo, apparently a straight white "family" man in Contra Costa County, and got a sound-bite out of him dissing pro-peace, anti-war demonstrators in San Francisco. The dude said the peace demonstrators ought to get real jobs. In other words they should be SUV-wielding, gun-promoting, armchair warriors like himself. It was just like the good ol' days of the Vietnam conflict, when "peacocks" were routinely denounced as long-haired hippie freaks with nothing better to do than upset the patriotic war against the godless gooks. Yes, that's the word "true" Americans used in those days, referring to the Vietnamese—"gooks"—and they felt no shame about it. Now to rally the troops, the unelected White House resident just says "Saddam," making sure it sounds like "Sodom."

In my senior year in high school, I registered as a conscientious objector. At the time, the draft was a big jet engine sucking in warm bodies and spewing them out as shredded flesh, bones and blood. The images came nightly on our black-and-white TV screens. I listened to what Presidents Johnson and Nixon had to say about why Vietnam needed to be napalmed and bled to death, and clearly it was all lies. Even a teenager can tell the difference between truth and bullshit. Now reading from the same script, dusted off and updated with a Hollywood rewrite, Bush is even less persuasive. So frightened was he by the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, along with the anthrax attack, that first he ordered American troops to wipe out a regime in Afghanistan — which *maybe* was justified — but now he's sending young men off to die in the act of demolishing Iraq, a country that never did the U.S. any appreciable harm, despite a regime as nasty and unpalatable as they come, and so justice in the U.S. has gone the way of the Dodo Bird.

Bush has let loose a juggernaut, and the whole world trembles because it sees a deranged tyrant on the loose, possessed of the world's deadliest arsenal of chemical, biological, nuclear, high-tech and conventional weaponry. Rightly, the world community asks: Who's the real terrorist? Who's the real threat to world peace? And the answer is too terrible for that family man in Contra Costa County to face squarely, lest his stripped delusions cause him to grow his hair out, start smoking pot, and sit in meditation, contemplating the tightness of his asshole.

So what does this have to do with entertainment, this column's reason for being? Well, nothing and everything. In the battle for ratings, war wins, hands down. At a time like this, who gives a damn about the movies, or much else? But live-action combat? Totally hypnotic, and hard to top. That's why the only memorable moment at the Academy Awards® was when Michael Moore showed a level of courage matching that of the best soldiers on a battlefield.

With big-name TV reporters in bed with the U.S. military in Iraq — oh, I mean "embedded" — we get reality entertainment as never before. Nobody gives a hoot now if some dufus "survivor" gets kicked out of a ridiculous jungle vacation; now we've got reporters giving live play-by-play from inside tanks thundering across the Iraq desert. Ted Koppel is trying his hardest to look and act like Peter O'Toole in *Lawrence of Arabia*, but the truth is there are no noble warriors or reporters in this conflict. It's just as Moore said, the U.S. military, aided by the major media, is fighting a trumped-up conflict, a war of aggression based on the will to conquer, not on the quest for justice, or security, or peace. There's no nobility in that, no honor, no dignity. But real-time war gives the networks a big bump in their ratings, which of course is good for Bush. It shows him "in command." If the dust ever settles, we're likely to realize he's not Rambo, but Dumbo, just about as bright as this war.

One thing I'll say about the current global maelstrom: It's caused me to find religion. Not the fundamentalist, fire-and-brimstone, either-you're-with-us-or-you're-against-us kind, but the sane version, in which congregations rejoice in the ideals of peace and love, those attributes much derided by proponents of conflict and conflagration. Glide Memorial Church, where I'm a newcomer, represents the best idea of humanity, a coming together of all kinds of people to share in the spirit of compassion, lifting one another up, casting out the dark spirits of hatred, greed, selfishness, and intolerance, and embracing the light of non-violence and compassion. The choir, the band, the soloists, the signer, and larger-than-life hero Williams himself all work in sweet unison to effect a space of harmony, projecting a powerful spirit of peace, the only sure way of offsetting the destructiveness of war. Leave the anger in the street; in the temple, bring only love, and project it far and wide till your good chi energy gently breaks down the dry, crusty, stale, stuck chi of war.

All over the Bay Area, good people are working to counter Bush's war. Join them, and help a nation mired in the Iraq wilderness find its way out. We all need to get on the highway to redemption. ▼

5 Fri

Birthday Party @ The Center

The SF LGBT Community Center celebrates its birthday with Laughs! Dancing! Entertainment! Two shows (8p and 10p) with fabulous performers. Featuring co-host Dr. Carol Queen, QComedy regular Payne Abeba, Pippi Lovestocking, Lu Read (AKA Fudgie Frottage), Queer Jitterbugs, The Sara Gina Jones Passion Dance Troupe and Heklina! Official after party at Cheap Trick (The Stud). \$10-\$20 sliding scale (NO-TAFLOF). 7p-Midnight. Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

'Petchitecture' @ The Galleria

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) presents its 8th annual "Petchitecture," a fundraiser showcasing the most stylish pet beds, houses and accessories in the west. With cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and music. Celebrate publication of *Pads for Pets: Fabulous Projects for Your Furry, Feathered and Phibious Friends* (Chronicle Books, April 2003) by Elizabeth Quintin of the architectural firm Gensler. \$45. 7-10p. SF Design Center. Tix/info: Poulos Brothers, 677-8688; www.pawssf.org

6 Sat

'Paint Your Wagon' @ Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon's "Saturday Night Out" presents a special LGBT edition of the 1951 Lerner & Loewe musical *Paint Your Wagon*, featuring a free post-show reception for members of GLBTQ communities and their friends. Refreshments by MacArthur Park and Hayes and Vine; post-show discussion on the show with the cast and artistic team, addressing questions of gay subtext and/or little-known historical

tidbits. Patrons who purchase tickets for both this and the next "Out" night (for Roberta, starring Kathryn Crosby, on April 26) will save \$3 on the purchase. \$29 (\$55 for both PYW and Roberta). 8pm Thu-Fri; 6pm Sat; 3pm Sun. Show runs thru April 13. Tix/info: 278-2777; www.42ndStreetMoon.org

'Girls Takin' It Over' @ LYRIC

"Girls Takin' It Over," a young women's open house, where you can meet other young women, eat good food, see queer girl art, and learn about opportunities at LYRIC and in the community. For women ages 23 and under. Free. 12 noon-4pm. Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC), 127 Collingwood St. (at 18th St.). Info: Kristin at 703-6150, Kristin@Lyric.org; surf www.lyric.org

Pepperspray and Flatcracker @ Galia

Pepperspray, San Francisco's own punk rock drag divas and hellbilly drag king rockers

Flatcracker perform at a Sadie Hawkins costume and dance party. Cash prizes for best lookin' Bo, Luke and Daisy Duke costume. It's a little bit fay country...a little bit queer rock 'n' roll. Fun games & contests. \$10-\$15 cover in costume (cash prize for best lookin' "Daisey Duke" with those really cute short shorts); \$20 without. Doors open at 8pm; show at 9pm. 21+ w/ID. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (near 22nd St.). Info: 970-9777.

Anarchist Book Fair @ Golden Gate Park

Bound Together Anarchist Collective Book Store presents the eighth annual "Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair," with famed Beat writer Diane DiPrima as featured speaker, plus writer and visual artist Eric Drooker, queer writer Kirk Read (*How I Learned to Snap*; www.kirkread.com), prison activist Rita D. Bo Brown, and authors Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Chris Carlsson, Max Elbaum, Ron Sakolsky, and Roy San Filippo. More than 60 vendors, art exhibit, cafe. Free admission. 10am-



ODC School & Theater choreographers present "Pilot 40." See Wednesday.

of "Platform," featuring works from more than 125 artists, a full fashion show of more than 15 local designers, award-winning short films, DJs and a host bar sponsored by Clos Val, deLorimer, Bonny Doon, and Stella Artois. \$15. 5-7 pm Pre-screening wine tasting for collectors and buyers; 7pm-midnight main event. 888 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info/tix: www.plado.org.

7 Sun

hiccup queer @ Corona Heights

Kithology presents "hiccup queer & genderfuck playground," with music by DJ BEET, an Arm Wrestling Tournament, hula hoops, volleyball, basketball, board games, cheerleaders, nail polish, raffle, snack bar and more. *Wrasslin'* is back with Tuck Duggit! An all-ages, genderqueer, genderfuck, str8 inclusive, ethnodiversified, polyposisitive, dykes accepted, fatfabulous, accessible neighborhood shindig. Free. 2-6pm. Corona Heights Playground, States St. off Castro. Info: [hiccup.com](http://kithology.com/hiccup.com)

SF Hiking Club @ Big Basin

Join other outdoors lovers for a Berry/Silver/Golden Falls Hike. For many, Big Basin's series of cascades and falls is one of the Bay Area's most spectacular features. Leisurely 11-mile hike with a 1,700-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am at the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores streets. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'Hairpiece' @ Glama-Rama!

Opening reception: "Hairpiece," silk-screens by Sahar Khoury, a tribute to Mission Hair Salons (*Un Tributo a Las Salones de Cabello en la Mission*). Interpretations of local Mission neighborhood hair salons and the hair that comes out of them. Music by local bands, DJs. Snacks. Free. 5-9pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. Info: 861-4526.

8 Mon

Young Tongues @ LYRIC

The Young Women's Program at LYRIC — aka Young Tongues — offers a safe space for queer women 23 and younger to meet, volunteer in their community, and hook up to different things going on. Free. 7-9pm. 127 Collingwood St (btwn 18th & 19th). Info: 703-6150

9 Tue

YouthAware @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's YouthAware Program presents *Gorgeous, A Journey of the Body*, a one-woman play by Anna Furse, starring Dyan McBride and directed by Kristi Scott. This unique one-woman show is a theatre-in-education program for teens struggling with body image and aspiring towards "ideal" beauty. It takes an *Alice in Wonderland*-type journey through the ages as it observes our shifting relationships with our bodies and the media's influence on body image. \$5 donation. 8am April 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9; 2pm April 5, 25 Van Ness Ave. Info: 861-4914, ext 109.

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The next conquest: LA

by Mister Marcus

The next big leather contest takes place this weekend in Los Angeles when Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 will be chosen at the El Rey Theatre.

Nine contestants from throughout the Los Angeles Basin will be competing for the title. They are Mr. Regiment Robert Green, Mr. Bullet Leather Shawn Smith, Mr. Ventura Leather Bear David Hearn, Mr. Ashram West Leather Terry Demby, Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear Gannon Gray, Mr. Long Beach Leather Bear Dan O'Leary, Gauntlet II Mr. Leather Stephen Blackwell, Mr. Sisters Leather Rob Roberts and Faultline Mr. Leather Chris Woods. According to an informed source, "They all get along. These guys are really brothers". The group is known affectionately as "The LA 9," and the contest promises to be "something different".

The chairman of the Los Angeles Leather Coalition (LALC), Kevin Casey, with the help of his faithful committee is about to release a sigh of relief as the contest date nears. The bar contests have been in progress for three months now, but Kevin states it's gone very well. I'll be there to cover this contest, so you'll be the first to know the results. After all, it's my hometown!

Reflections of Bryan Mullikin

The entire leather nation was saddened last week when it was learned that former DC resident, Bryan Mullikin, had passed away due to medical complications. Bryan was one of the main components in forming the DC Boys of Leather - a move that served as a catalyst to the formation of several "boy" groups around the nation. He was chosen American Leather Boy 2001 at ABW 2001 and endeared himself to old and new guard alike.

Last Saturday night, March 22,



These nine men will compete for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 title this coming Sat., March 29 at the El Rey Theatre. From left: Mr. Regiment Leather Rob Green, Mr. Bullet Leather Shawn Smith, Mr. Ventura Leather Bear David Hearn, Mr. Ashram West Leather Terry Demby, Mr. LA Leather Bear Gannon Gray, Mr. Long Beach Leather Bear Dan O'Leary, Gauntlet II Mr. Leather Stephen Blackwell, Mr. Sisters Leather Rob Roberts, and Faultline Mr. Leather Chris Woods.

the SF Boys of Leather had scheduled a Pre-Oscar® benefit for San Francisco's Under One Roof.

The fundraiser was augmented with a plea for burial expenses to Bryan's family in Covington, Kentucky. Under One Roof benefited by some \$2,000 and the generosity of the crowd garnered \$800 for the Mullikin family. Empress Snatch, Donna Sachet and Mark Paladini entertained magnificently and the added the Oscar "trivia" sessions were fun as delivered by Scott Brogan. He did keep the crowd under control and entertained.)

Those who remember Bryan Mullikin will attest to the fact that he was the epitome of a boy in the

concept that has been embraced by the leather nation. He always had a ready smile and a warm greeting and worked hard to enhance the image of the boy culture. He moved to Chicago in 2002 for reasons unexplained to most and on Monday morning, March 17, his body was discovered by friends in his Chicago neighborhood.

A memorial service will be conducted on Thursday, March 27 at 1800 at Saint Augustine Church, 1839 Euclid Avenue in Covington, Kentucky. Donations may be sent to DC Boys of Leather, Attn: Bryan Mullikin Memorial, P.O. Box 53286, Washington, DC 20009. A celebration of life for Bryan will take place on Saturday, April 26 during the

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 27

Mr. November 2004 gets chosen tonight for the Bare Chest Calendar at 2130. Judges this time around: Julian Marshburn, Ross Dierking, J.S. Geras and Bob Brunson.

Weekend, March 28-30

Cowtown Rodeo in Fort Worth, Texas with 13 events including dancing, parties and shopping. For more info, call their hotline (214) 346-2107 or click on www.tgra.org.

Saturday, March 29

The Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2003 contest at the El Rey Theatre on Wilshire Blvd. Nine men from throughout the county will vie for the right to succeed Daddy Don Ansprach. Good luck to all. I'll be there to cover the story so you'll be the first to know the winner.

"Trading for Tacos" at the Eagle Tavern from 1600-1800 in honor of Ms. World's "Leather Day of Caring" (for the homeless). Joint venture by leather women in SF and the East Bay to benefit A Woman's Place and Regent St. House in Berkeley.

Benefit today and tomorrow from 1300 to 1800 for Patrick Califia who is moving back to San Francisco. Mark I. Chester will make inexpensive digital portraits of you or someone else in his studio at 1229 Folsom.

Sunday, March 30

Mr. Ebony in Leather, Vince Edd, hosts a "Tom of Finland Salutes Men of Color" benefit at the Gauntlet II in Los Angeles with raffles and auction of Tom of Finland memorabilia.

"Fusion" dance party at 715 Harrison touted as a "hot leather men sweating and dancing" to the sounds of Matt Consola from 1800 to 0200 tomorrow. Tickets at the Barking Frog and BodyWear. For more info, click on www.frictionevents.com.

Wednesday, April 2

At 933 Harrison, Leathermen's Discussion Group meets to discover "Polyamory: Creating Leather Families. Speakers include Race Bannon, Michael Bettinger, Mick Sheppard and David Forbes. Info: 425-551-0871.

Boyz Bust Buddies at 933 Harrison which also includes a "play" party hosted by Mr. Gay SF Lance Brittan. Looks like it will be a busy night on the premises.

Thursday, April 3

Mr. November 2004 will be chosen tonight at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Judges: J.S. Geras, Mike Romero, Rod Wood and Castro Czar Patrick Batt.

Weekend, April 4-6

Alameda County Leather Club Bear Weekend in Hayward. Boxers & Bears at Club Rumor on Friday; Mr. Alameda Co. Bear contest at the Turf Club on Saturday and Baskets, Bonnets & Bears Brunch at the Turf Club all to benefit the In Memory Foundation.

Saturday, April 5

The only place to be tonight is 444 Jessie St. (behind the downtown SF Mint) for the grand opening of Audrey Joseph's new dance club, Mezzanine. Don't miss this one!

PORN

Gorgeous orgies

by John F. Karr

The industry calls them all-sex movies, and the rest of us call them orgies. The most popular tactic for filming them recently has been Overwhelm: cast of thousands, sets to rival the Coliseum, action thrown in your face. But those Cecil B. De Mille-like productions may have run their course, because new videos from Raging Stallion and Titan Studios eschew De Mille for De Minish: smaller cast, contained set, more focused action. For both, this really pays off. And their approaches couldn't be more different. Where Raging Stallion director Chris Ward is as artful as possible in *Nexus*, the second part of a trilogy exploring "The Art of the Orgy" which began quite successfully with *Sexus*, Titan's *Man-Play* series (now up to its seventh installment!) pretends a casual artlessness.

Now, maybe I spend too much time quantifying sexual activity, but I'd somehow decided that an orgy consisted of at least four people. One person was a solo, two were a couple, three a threeway.

Over that? An orgy. So I confused myself thinking that *Nexus* didn't actually qualify, since the majority of its time is spent on the various sub-groupings of the seven guys we find locked together at the movie's opening. But the dictionary is unconcerned with numbers. An orgy, it says, is a revel involving unrestrained indulgence. Well, that's *Nexus*.

An example of the many felicities of filmmaking craft in *Nexus* is how our immediate and personal involvement is enlisted during the credits. The guys are already getting into it, and the camera roves among them, alighting on each in turn, as they wink or smile at us while their name ap-



Karrnal Knowledge

pears on the screen. It's really welcoming, and tells us the pace won't be frenetic; *Nexus* will be nice and easy, with time for savory detail. There's also a set that's been specially constructed to accommodate sex while remaining unobtrusive, and theatrical lighting that makes the bodies warmly golden and boldly contrasted in front of an inky black background that's free of distracting clutter. Most of all, though, there's the flow of Ward's directing, suavely maintaining its spell by keeping the time-span unbroken. With David Hempfing's exemplary videography, the camera segues with such effortless cunning into various couplings that at first we may be unaware of the change. This fluid glide allows us to be on surprisingly intimate terms with the players during their individual pairings, without losing a sense of the greater event.

Cock in groove

However appreciable, the price of such artfulness is a sense of calibration. Still, players like Carlos Morales, Tom Vacarro,

Rik Jammer and a seemingly inexhaustible Tony Serrano are pretty distracting. They're joined by hot blond Riley Porter (the abst!), hairy-chested Bruce Jennings, and Fyre Fli, a most delicious newcomer who's seen here only briefly. The art of foreplay is fully exercised, with a pile-up of hard-ons at one point that demanded a hit on the Pause button. There's some pretty stunning cock worship, and lots and lots of taunting cock-in-groove play that begs the question of at what point such cock and asshole flirting might become unsafe. I liked seeing condoms put on during play — once again, it keeps the action unbroken — and I liked the top-to-bottom versatility of the players.

Nexus is available separately, but also as part of a double package that contains *Nexus Hardcore*. This hour of extreme sexuality presents two intense dildo and fisting scenes made during the *Nexus* orgy. One scene features Jammer jammed by Vacarro, and the other, the meaty Morales topped by Aaron Tanner (who's usually a bottom, but knows what he's doing here). These aren't those dull plumber-at-work pumpings that frequently pass for fisting, but more deeply communicative and expertly managed events. As a bonus, there's a half-hour of a second cameraman's take of *Nexus*. This footage was unused in the film for some reason, but it's good, and offers lots that isn't seen in the full version, most especially an impressive cocksucking chain linking all the guys. The *hardcore double-set* is available only by mail order. And those of you who agree that JD Slater's music is the perfect accompaniment for sex will be pleased to hear that it's available on several CDs. This can be pretty serious stuff; try the set called *Unrepentant* for starters. ▼

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ABW contest weekend.

While we grieve with friends and the leather family, it is safe to say many lives were enhanced and brightened by this young man who upheld all the ideals of a true leather person. It was both a pleasure and a delight to know Bryan Mullikin. His memory will be long remembered and a testament to an ideal example of our leather youth in action, support, caring and brotherly love. Heartfelt condolences are extended to Bryan's family and friends.

Calendar progress

The 2004 Bare Chest Calendar competitions reached the three-quarter mark last Thursday, March 20 when six men (Nick Aitken, Brad Cavalier, Chris Duncan, Jose Guevara, Ed Hernandez and James Holloway) faced judges, Didier Camangolle, Donna Sachet, Doug Mezzacoppo and Glen Tanking for the October 2004 spot. It was a rousing crowd that cheered the chests on but when all the votes were counted, James Holloway emerged as the winner and becomes Mr. October 2004. Mr. November 2004 will be chosen on Thursday, March 27th at the Powerhouse at 2130. Be there!



American Leather Boy 2001 Bryan Mullikin passed over during the weekend of March 14-16 in Chicago. He was one of the founders of the DC Boys of Leather, a group that was a catalyst to all the Boy groups in the US.

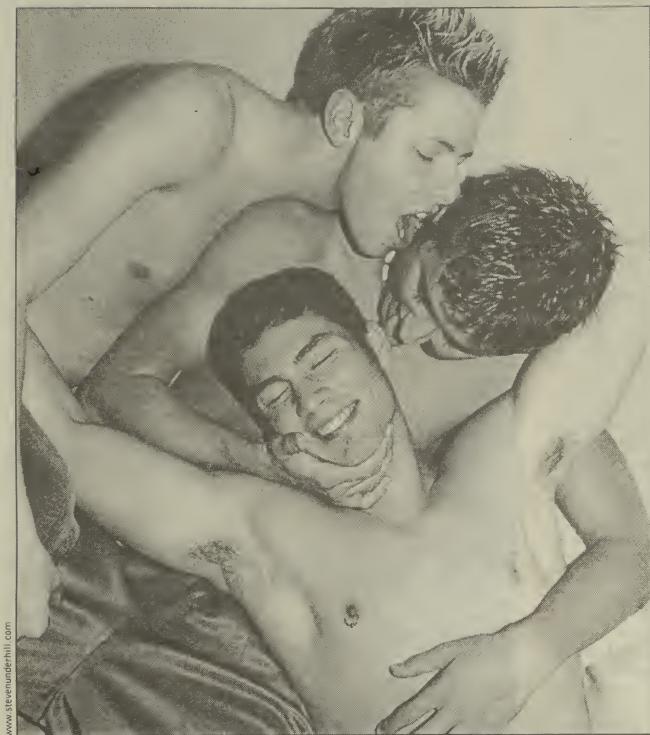
Spring is here and just around the corner are several important leather events including ABW in April and IML in May. I hope you'll be able to participate. If not, maybe I'll be there to cover it for you. And remember, no need to wait for "monthly" and late reports on what's happening in the leather nation. Columnists from around the world are at your beck and call if you click on

www.LeatherPage.com. It simply can't be beat for up to date news that interests you. Next time you see Joe Gallagher, let him know how much appreciate having this web site available to you.

Correction

The correct spelling of Mr. Hoist Leather 2003 is John Pendel, and not as it was listed here last week. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Sugar On 7/22 At Stud I'm A Fool
You: Strawberry blond with the sweetest smirk I've ever seen. Me: tallish, drk brn, mid-length hair. You said hi, me hello. But questioned sincerity. Help! Another chance? Wanna dance? ☎ 72436

Bicyclist Noe Java 2-22-3pm
Red cap watched bike/movie talk. ☎ 72437

Cliff's Variety Fed 14 Yogamat
Bumped into you twice (looking for Valentines) Are you cupid or just a cutie? ☎ 72438

"Missed Connections!"
Giancarlo the hairdresser. We used to date but lost contact with you. I used to have the cats. Would like to see you again. My name is Marc. ☎ 72465

24th Street Ritz Camera
Sat 3/1. You were getting passport photo. I was buying videotape. I should have volunteered to document your trip with you! Hope we can talk further. ☎ 72454

Howard - We Met At 14th Street House on Winter Solstice, exchanged numbers, but you was missing. Our would be a serviceable relationship. ☎ 72466

"Where Are You?"
Whatever happened to Billy Harris? Please call - Thank you. ☎ 72480

Market Street Safeway 3/4-5/30
You white Lshirt, very handsome, great smile, solid bank card wrong way. Me behind you in line, glasses, g/tee, black jacket. Would love to meet. Maybe coffee? ☎ 72467

• Missed Connection Sunday 3/16*
Friendly smile @ Sweet Inspiration/Filmstore Street. You walking down stairs w/cap and friend- me seated w/friend @ table. Should have said hello- want to try again? ☎ 72482

Doctor's Office 2/19/03
You: handsome bearded Latino with moon. Me: short, cute blond with glasses. Numerous glances and smiles exchanged before you left sans 911. Would love to ask you out! ☎ 72493

• Brandon/ Palo Alto*
We met at Stud 3/8. You disappeared when we were at "My Place". Let's continue the tour. Michael ☎ 72469

Fri 3/14 5:40pm Embarc Bart Station
We disbursed at Galler Park. I said hi, you cute Asian guy, me: Walkin' with NY cap. My apologies for not asking you out. Wanna give me another chance? ☎ 72481

• Missed Connection Sunday 3/16*
Friendly smile @ Sweet Inspiration/Filmstore Street. You walking down stairs w/cap and friend- me seated w/friend @ table. Should have said hello- want to try again? ☎ 72482

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Poz Looking For Real Man
Looking for down to earth guy for dating and Itr. I'm 44, 6'2", 205, like movies, walks on beach, quiet times at home N/S, not into bar or gay scene. ☎ 72455

Slim, Trim, Attractive Professional
GWM 48, 6'2", swimmer's build, healthy, HIV+ seeks attractive, affectionate guy for dating. You're smart, conversant, & not into gay scene. ☎ 72456

"Academic Physician From India"
Living in Boston, visiting SF March 19-26, 44, 5'10", 195lbs, dark hair & eyes, naturally tanned. Professional, collegiate, straight appearing, masculine, strong. Top romantic partner, kind, caring & giving. GWM 39yrs. Latin versatiles, well educated, adventurous, non-smoker and not into scene. Let us meet for friendship fun and whatever naturally develops. Chiseled muscles are a big turn-on. Who knows what can happen. Open to possibilities. ☎ 72457

Energetic/ Athletic Young Latin
Golikins 39yrs. Latin versatiles, 155lbs. Drug free looking for WL/GM, versatile nice build, smooth 6 to 6 1/2 dick, small round butt N/D HIV+ healthy. ☎ 72458

Young Latino Wanted
By this 6', 197lb, GWM 57 brn/blz, no s. light d, smaller than me and uncut preferred. I'm a nice guy, spiritual and understanding. I like outdoor/ indoor activities. Open to ltr. ☎ 72459

Italian Lover, Man
(Oh Where Can You Be?) I'm looking for the right Italian guy for a relationship, friendship fun and sex. Call me! ☎ 72460

SWG In Seek Of SWGM
20-35 years old in Ukar area, who is looking for a long-term relationship. He should be clean cut, loves to dance and someone to show me a good time. ☎ 72470

GLM Seeking Black Or Mulatto
44yrs, 5'7"/125lbs smooth masculine work out small tight butt. Athletic body HIV+ healthy. Seeks Black or Mulatto for hot sex possible relationship. ☎ 72471

Masc Skate-Board Bottom Guy
GLM 38yrs 5'07/153lbs, muscular body bottom smooth masc, tight butt seeking any race height/weight proportion 25 to 40, cool attitude @ 6'7" for friendship, fun. Versatile or top N/D or fems. ☎ 72472

—Candlelight Dinner—
Followed by a naked embrace, a sensual shower together, and gentle erotic lovemaking. Slender masculine guy looking for the same. I'm 44 and prefer you be younger than same age. ☎ 72473

W 40yr Old Oral Top 5'10" 165
Seeks guy 19-30 for-adventure, friendship and fun. I like to travel, movies & sports. Prefer clean cut White or Latino guy. Pts no drugs. ☎ 72440

I'm 48 5'9" 150# Work Out 3 Days
A week swimmer build, big arms, nice butts, flat stomach, nice dick, smooth tight butt into art, zen, yoga, & life. I.N.S. other irish/ish. I'm 48, date, age, unimportant hairy cool hard attitude a must. HIV+. ☎ 72441

Uncut, Hung-Hung, Hairy, Masc, Musc, HIV+ & Masc
50, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/ goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. May-June. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV+/dmc. ☎ 72483

Middle Aged GWM
6'2"-200lbs daddy wantable with dark hair & mustache. Honest, spiritual, open-minded, easy to live with. I like gardens, cooking, dogs, weekend trips. Looking for younger (28-36) G. male, any race, mature, with similar ideas about living, who likes to clean house. ☎ 72484

Sanoma Co. Top
Handsome HIV- 6ft, 175, 51, good shape hung seeks bottom buddy for every weekend long sessions: Be in shape 25-40, Bk A+ don't wait. ☎ 72485

Asian Bottom Seeks Muscular...
Top!, 18-35. I'm 29, 5'5", 120lbs fit, smooth, athletic, toned, and extremely goodlooking, fine, cute, and attractive! Prefer White. ☎ 72486

Need Mature Asian Fist
To stretch my White ass, squeeze fist and make me shiver. Never fistied before? I'll teach you how. ☎ 72446

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Seeking Indo-American, South Asian
Oral Bottom preferably hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72430

Naked Ecstasy —
Free soothing massage session for trim masculine guys from 20's to 40's by easy going trim masculine WIM 44. ☎ 72431

Seeking Middle Aged, Chubby
Balding oral bottom preferably hairy and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72432

Vicious Cock sucker/ Nine Inch!
Me, 61", 220, HIV+, very clean, UB-2! Hung 40y.o., WM seed 30-60 yds on the Peninsula's S. Bay Area for long, hot unforgettable sessions. ☎ 72433

Celebrate Black History Month-
Panther this month, mature Black gentleman. Massage me, serve me drinks, relieve my tension. Seeking a mature, masculine, submissive man with a moustache. Direct contact phone number required. Hotel? ☎ 72434

Nude Beach Buddies Wanted!!!!
GWM 49 act free goodlooking and nude beach advocate seeks others for nude travels, adventure and outdoor sex. Love to j/o and fuck. Black guys a big plus. ☎ 72435

Naked Psychotherapy
Lay on my couch and tell me about your childhood, problems, and sexual fantasies. Free therapy for trim waisted guys under 40 by masculine trim role play psychiatrist. Trust! ☎ 72463

Big Man Wanted!
Healthy, clean senior GW masc, top seeking big, heavy, or overweight bi or GW masc, submissively bottom. ☎ 72462

Seeking Indo-American, South Asian oral bottom.
Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, tits, shaved body parts, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72474

Visiting 03/22-29
Partners, early 60's, staying in Castro at Beck's, seek other mature singles or couples who like us, are height/weight proportionate, and STD free, for play. Also would enjoy light BD/S/M if you have done so. Tops and "versatilities" particularly appreciated. ☎ 72475

Getting A Late Start
G.W.M. 57- 6'1", 200lbs, fantasized about S&M for a long time, now ready to meet a single or couple willing to show me, then show me off. C.B.T., hanging around, S&M party, all sound great. ☎ 72476

You Suck I Stuff
Italian, 52, 5'7", medium build, HIV-neg, 7.5-8.5" cut, low hangers, seeks aggressive cockucker with an insatiable mouth and lots of stamina for long sessions. Your place. ☎ 72477

Latino Seeking Black
Me 40's 5'5" slim smooth masculine bottom nice body work out healthy poz seeks Black nice body for hot sex play safe attitude possible relationship. ☎ 72478

Alpha Top Seeks Butch Bottom
Masculine GWM, 40, 6'2", 240lbs, foot/ ball jack build, 8" and thick, wants aggressive butch bottom for ongoing hot, rough, intense, monogamous scenes. Clean STD-free and always plays safe. ☎ 72442

Discreet & Selective
61yo, look like 50', 6', 255, chubby, originally from exhibitionist, discreet, selective, seeks gay men for open relationship, will come to you, South Bay. ☎ 72443

Hot Butt Eater
42yo, GWM, hot, brn, blu, 6'165#, big bushy moustache ready to take hot trim butts for a ride on my moustache & slide down my tongue. George. ☎ 72448

Need Mature Asian Fist
To stretch my White ass, squeeze fist and make me shiver. Never fistied before? I'll teach you how. ☎ 72446

Your Hard Cock In My Mouth
WM seeking horny senior 71-80 to fuck my mouth and finish by jacking off your load on my face on weekly or bi-monthly basis. Make my your on-call fuck face. ☎ 72445

A1 Deep-Throat Oral Service
SF GWM, 48, 6'1", 185#, gl, masc, pro-fessional delivery, provide deep-throat oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting head with no reciprocation. HIV-, ub2. ☎ 72447

Desires Thick Cocked Average
Masculine Guy, Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. ☎ 72449

Novice/Curious Nudist?
Preferably not, mandatory hairy, and hung for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral ok but mostly j/o, etc. Your place, PM preferred. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes encouraged. Like to explore being nude with another man w/o the pressure of performing in anal/oral manner. ☎ 72487

"Bondage"!
Slim and hairy or smooth men needed to explore erotic and sensual aspects of bondage. No fat or fems please- From mild to heavy. ☎ 72489

• Hot Beds*
Student photography wants to shoot some hot stuff for my portfolio. Show me your stuff and have fun. Nice butts a plus. Love to ruin! ☎ 72469

Smooth Slender Cocks Wanted!
G/W/M, 6'1", 200lbs is seeking a group of well hung slender and smooth guys. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me! ☎ 72490

Ball Worshipper
Seeks long low loose hangers w/uncircumcised dick for kissing, licking, sucking, stroking to orgasm. Be very smooth, clean shaven, submissive, moaner. Feed me your hot sweet throbbing balls. ☎ 72491

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175lbs, seeks well-built bottom with nice, round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72492

South Bay Bearish Cont.
Bearish, athletic, well-muscled, & blnd blz, 44yrs hairless, mustache, 190, HIV-, seeks GWM HIV-. 22-46 masculine, open, honest, smart, big armed buddy for camping, hot spring making out in the wilderness, cuddling, oral sex, friendship sense of humor, adventure, world travel maybe! ☎ 72493

FETISHES

Sonoma County Freak Seeks Same
Males: Females: Couples. Any race, age, size. I'm 19S, tan, slim, average hung. Hairless from neck to crotch. Love cum facials naturalism, voyeurism, farmboys, cheerleaders, and schoolgirl fantasies. Local preferred. ☎ 72479

Prison Guard Fantasy
Trim role playing guard needs a submissive trim-waited under 45 inmate to be stripped naked and follow orders. Safe, painless fun with healthy negative guy. ☎ 72444

Man/W To Toe Ring Loves Barefoot
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gelling East Bay GWM 5'9", tan, HIV-, red/pink, erotic, playful, kissing, licking, massaging panties & erotic, sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 72463

Seeking Senior Circle Jerk
Masculine WM seeking senior with 2-6 friends who can organize monthly senior citizen circle jerk with me in the middle on evenings end will consider sold but prefer small group. ☎ 72464

• Pro Wrestling Videos*
If this is your passion and you like role playing, I want to meet you. I'm 52, 5'11", 175bs, and j/o to wrestling videos. ☎ 72450

Skimasked Bandit Skinhead
Tow truck driver, 25, aryan bootstomper wearing skimask, Ben Davis pants, black derby jackets, seeks skims, tufts, tufts, guys in denim jackets, biker, who need mouth/mouth service. ☎ 72451

Ass Master Wanted, Mature
Mature body builder wants a mature ass for ongoing anal play. Reciprocalation given, if desired. ☎ 72452

Stroking For Hours
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking/partying buddy desired. Some oral or anal. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes given. ☎ 72453

Asshole Buddy Wanted!!
By mature man in great shape for mutual anal pleasure giving sessions. ☎ 72494

GWM 52 5'9" Average Build Med
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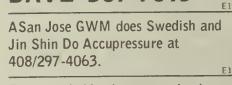
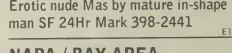
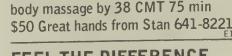
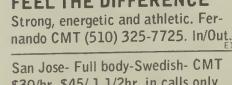
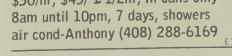
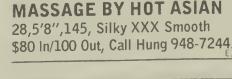
PERSONALS

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

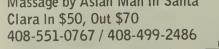
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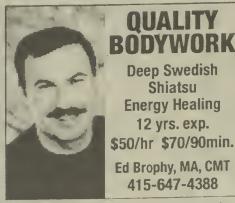
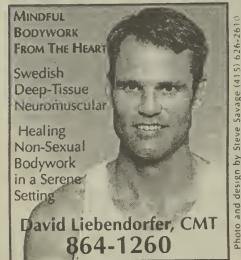
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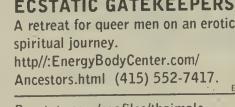
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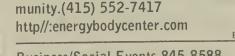
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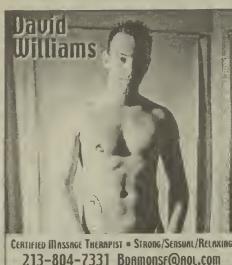
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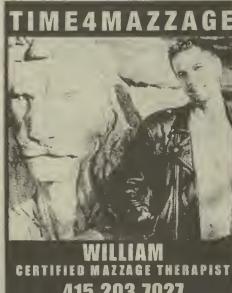
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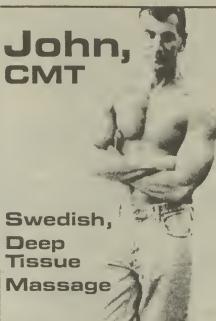



<img alt="A shirtless man is shown from the waist up, looking towards the camera. Text on the right side of the image

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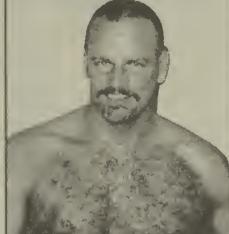
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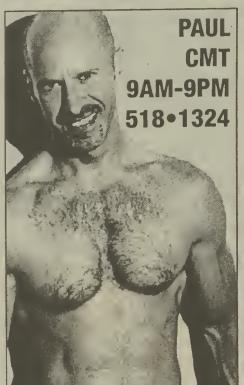
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Tom BuStone
SF BAY AREA

Handsome Hairy Hung
6' 160# 35 All Top
Reliable Professional Trustworthy Open-Minded Discreet Safe
HOT!
It's your money - Demand Quality 415-256-6743
Calls returned in 5 mins. email: TomBuStoneXXX@aol.com

TOTAL PACKAGE
26 yr. gymnast bod, muscular/defined, 28inch waist, Asian, 7" hardcut. In/out available. In \$125. (510) 393-0639

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27 GWM 6' 190lbs 32wst Big Legs 7" cut Hot Bubble Butt CleanCut Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7
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RICARDO
24 yo, 5' 10", 175#
www.latino4men.com

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HANDSOME STUD
9" FAT-CUT BROWN HAIR
VERSATILE TOP BILLIE EYES
5'11" 175#
STARTING AT \$200 VISA
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Got a kinky side? Like it intense or laidback?
Take it slow with Seth
190, 6'3", Topman
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LEATHER TOP!

Light to heavy sensual SM
handsome experienced w/dungeon
TON 415-487-1296

10"X6*UNCUT
very verbal* role play* w/s* fat tool
goodlooking*in or out*847-3585 *24hrs*

COWBOY TOP

6-180#, Rough muscled
30yrs. page 1 888 699 3252

8" Party Stud/ 346-4966/ Ken/ \$60

10"x6"cut tall 40's br/bl

XTRA HUNG DAD

Professional Experienced 24hrs
Friendly All Scenes-Kink 641 1441

Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7", 135#
SEXY NEW BOYTOW

Hot & horny 22y/o smooth/ bottom/ in/out calls- Jason (415) 210-1526

Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/\$60

Hndsm Italian top hung 10x7

CHOKE ON THIS!

Tight lean hairy bod 6'160# 35
gentle strength & arousing edge
in/out entire Bay Area call 24/7
415-256-6743 TomBuStoneXXX@aol

Anthony Hot Top

91/2 X6

SERVE ALL BAY AREA
6'2", 180, 35 yrs, Warm and Personal One of a kind. 247 (415) 724-5140

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Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7

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34, 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed

FIST MASTER

Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only
<http://come.to/jeffsfist>

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YOUNG & FUN
TYLER 415 336-8169 CELL

FOR MEN 50+
MASCULINE TOP MID 40s 6'3 185"
ENJOY SLOW, SENSUAL & PASSIONATE TO LEATHER & KINK.
UNHURRIED & DISCREET.
EXPLORE SOMETHING NEW WITH ME!
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Built to Perfection!! Black Stud
(415) 865-0506. Will satisfy All of
your Erotic needs. 5'11", 180lbs,
dark and smooth. Cleancut, masc,
musc, hung. Affectionate.

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GBM 6' 165# 9.5x6 415 425 3735

STEEL WORKER
6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut,
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HUNG FALCON GUY

Eric Wright 6'3"/195 v.good shape
smooth, brn/blnd, 36 y/o, 9.5x7
top, fun, physical, 24hrs.
Reduced rate before 6:00pm
Cell 415-810-0560

UNCUT 8" FAT MEAT +

Tight end & firm buns to please
all ages & races. I'm Cedric (415)
387 5990 585 for you to enjoy!

Erotic Bodyrub by Handsome Hung
Daddy 70 out only Dan 255 7223

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26, 5'11", 174lbs, 7" uncut, playful
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BLACK TOP STUD

Extra tall 6'6" 230 lbs

Extra goodlkg smth musc build

Extra hung true 10x7 tool

SF only out only serious only

Robb \$150.00 24hrs 724-1645

See Rob www.rentboy.com

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IN ALL ASPECTS.

BLACK, BUILT, BIG!!

Call (415) 865-0506.

YOUNG*FUN*SK8R*BOY*

24yrs, lean & toned, Euro-looking,

N2 many fun & hot scenes. 145lbs

pierced/very cute* Mike-#215 277-7727

PEOPLE

WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
- Meet Ads
- Voice Mail

24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

Free
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Cast your vote...

GOLDEN DILDEAUX AWARDS

Don't forget to vote Carlton Paul as a write-in for "Pushy Bottom," and the "Best Female Impersonator" categories. 'Daddy' Carlton...yeah, right! Just because you sit on it doesn't make you a top, dear Carlton.

Butt Bottoms wanted for FF/toys 415-752-0971

Good Head in Sonoma County. Call Days 707-823-3895

Concord GAM Iuvs sucking cock Sks 20-40s STD/HIV- G/B/BL/WM Pls no overweights 925 671 2704

Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area Location". Call 4 apptmt * 626-1168

Bare-Assed Spanking Experienced, Safe: 415-929-1185

FREE XXX PORN
HotHouse.com/FreePorn

Local men sexdate: 888-788-8989

Like nude pictures 18-23 only. If you are Asian only with 12" to 15" inch dick & like to fuck all time or be sucked all the time for hours anytime.

Pager: 415-356-8815

WM will JO/BJ/Rim ALL races 18-28, fit. S.Cruz Co 831-722-3739

GOT OUR VOTE

Carlton Paul..."write-in" vote for best female impersonator Golden Dildeaux Award!!!

Dad dominates big guys 665-4825

Local Men Sexdate: 888-788-8989

LEATHER/LEVI WEEKEND

Have fun and enjoy Leather/Levi Weekend 2003. Volunteers invited to the LLW Outreach Committee meeting, Wednesday, April 2 at 7PM, Club Eros, 2051 Market St Upstairs

18-24 and need a place to stay? 925-684-2253. N/D

Massage Table for sale 6 months old \$200 Cash. Don • 415-793-0436

Poz TG Poet with 2 cats doing cocktail wants new life-home w/man of means who can be there thru transition. Serious only please. Letter to P.O. Box 42, Guerneville, CA 95446

Thikdik 4 tite lean eagr bottm: Take Dad's 8 hard! Room 4 sweet horny br: 24 Hrs: 510-548-0842

S.F. SPANK PARTY INFO
415-864-2766 or Private Session.

GAY MEN WICCAN COVEN
Contact: sfgaycoven@hotmail.com

BAD BOYS SPANKED
Over Daddy's Knee (415) 864-2766

MAMA'S LEATHMAN 03

Watch for important announcement coming soon. Winner will compete for the Mr. SF Leather 2004 title the night before the Folsom St. Fair.

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